

gay

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FOR SIXTEEN YEARS, THE LESBIAN AND GAY WEEKLY

Back to DC!

The return of the NAMES Project to Washington will lead a wave of AIDS activism and lesbian/gay events

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON — From the unfolding of 12-miles of AIDS Memorial Quilts to civil disobedience (CD) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), lesbian and gay activism will return to the nation's capital for six action-packed days Oct. 6-11 — a year after the massive lesbian and gay March on Washington.

Planning for the week's activities, which focus on the AIDS crisis, is near completion, according to organizers from groups sponsoring the events. They include: ACT NOW (AIDS Coalition to Network, Organize and Win), the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force (NGLTF), The NAMES Project and National Gay Rights Advocates (NGRA).

Organizers expect over 50,000 participants — many of whom were part of the estimated 750,000 who attended last year's March. "People are very excited about the events. It's not designed to be like the March. That was a once-a-decade thing. These actions should be very effective in their own right," said Scott Sanders, national coordinator for ACT NOW.

The events culminate in an Oct. 11 CD at the FDA national headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, to protest the agency's "inaction and negligence" on AIDS. Also featured during the week will be National Coming Out Day (NCOD), designed to assist lesbians and gay men break "the silence that is strangling [their] lives"; a rock concert featuring Patti Larkin to raise money for the NAMES Project; and a number of community strategy meetings. (See Washington calendar listings, page II.)

"We want to continue building on the momentum of the March," said Dan Sauro of The NAMES Project. "The events work together on many different levels. For example, ACT UP and the NAMES Project are two ends of the spectrum. ...but it is very important that both exist. Some of us are frontline people who will be out there making noise. The NAMES Project is quieter but also effective in getting its message across. It's nice to see the community come together like this."

Sue Hyde of NGLTF and ACT NOW said AIDS activism and the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt are the focal points of the week. She said the NAMES Project, which has already toured 30 cities, is responsible for many of the events and organizing to bring people to the city. The Quilt display begins on Saturday morning with an unfolding ceremony and the reading of each of the over 8,300 names included in the Quilt. At nightfall the parents of children who have died of AIDS will lead a candlelight vigil to the Lincoln Memorial. "Think of this as the March, except with the NAMES Project central this time around. There are dozens of related events just like last year. Some are related to each other and some are not. But they should all be interesting," said Hyde.

Organizers also hope the events will help make AIDS a more important issue in the election. "We want to show voters that we

are more than a list of statistics in the midst of an election. Dukakis and Bush must begin to take AIDS more seriously," said Sauro.

Seizing control of the FDA

Maxine Wolfe of ACT UP/New York told *GCN* that in addition to participating in community projects like the Quilt, many activists are increasingly turning to direct action to express their anger about the government's inaction on AIDS. "The actions that have been going on around the country give people a chance to focus their energy in a way they have not had for a long time. But people need an outlet for their anger and frustration. We just can't continue to watch people die," said Wolfe.

Wolfe said the CD will raise many important health care issues. "Making drugs available is only one issue. What really is at stake here is the right of self-determination. If you have money in this country, you can get any drug you wish. If you don't, you are forced into drug trials which are controlled by the government and drug companies." Women of child-bearing years, IV drug users and children are systematically excluded from trials, she said. "We want to guarantee that FDA drugs do not reflect the needs of the drug industries but the needs of

Continued on page 3

AIDS Quilt denied permit

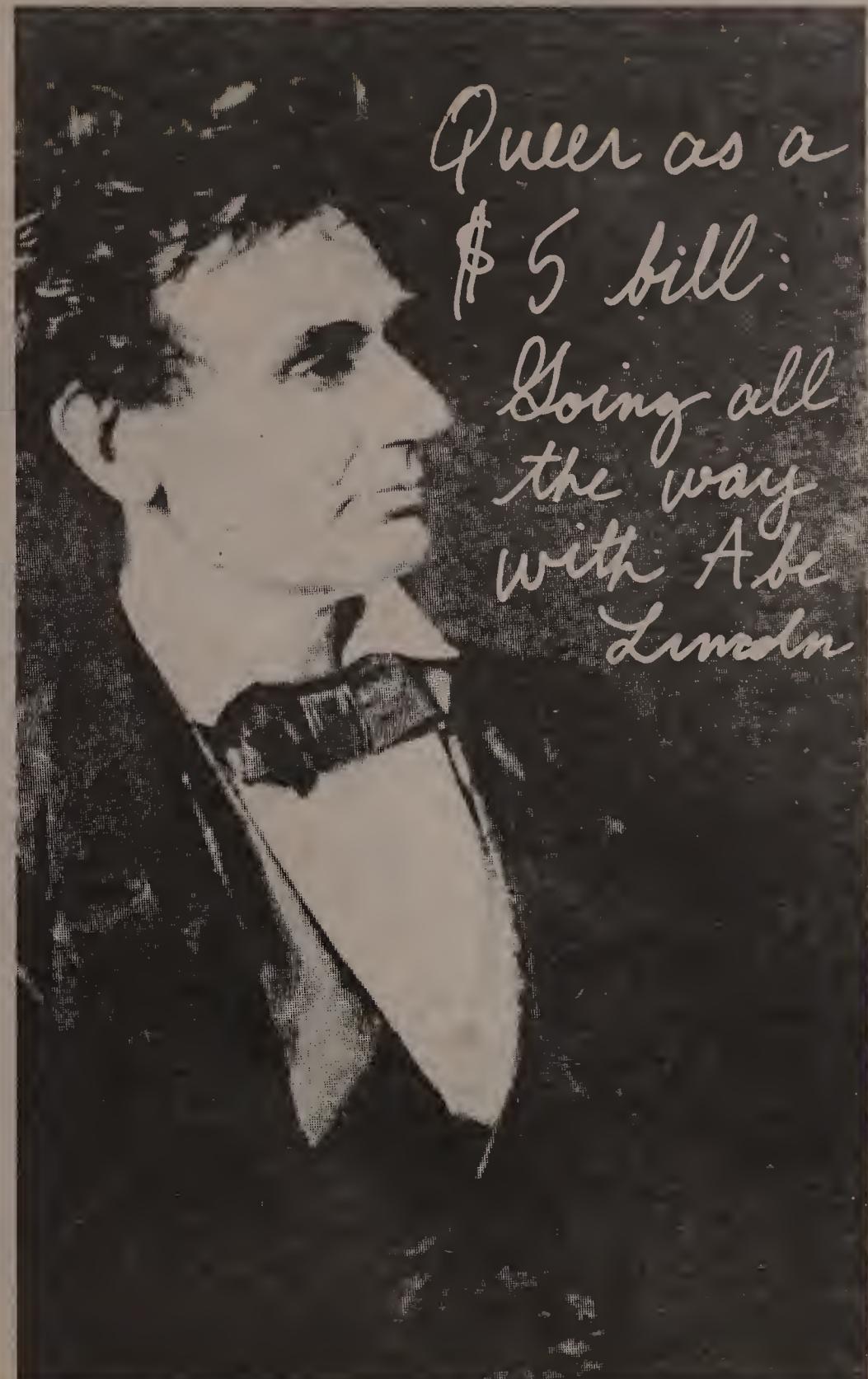
WASHINGTON — As *GCN* goes to press, the National Park Service has refused to grant the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt a permit for its proposed Oct. 8-9 display on the Ellipse.

According to NAMES Project spokesperson Sue Baelen, the National Millennium Society, a Ukrainian-American organization was given permission to use the site on the same days. The NAMES Project had been given tentative permission on Aug. 26.

Baelen stopped short of accusing the Park Service of harassment, saying "As far as we can tell, the Park Service just screwed up." She said the NAMES Project had no idea why the National Millennium Society was given priority.

"All is not lost, however," said Baelen. "The response we have gotten has been wonderful. Alternative sites are not easy to come by. The Quilt is over 300,000 square feet now. [But] no matter what happens we are going to Washington." Baelen suggested calling Congresspeople and Sandra Alby, associate regional director for public affairs of the Park Service, at (202) 485-9651.

Chris Bull



Queer as a
\$5 bill:
Going all
the way
with Abe
Lincoln

Boston cops found guilty of corruption

Gay clubs victimized by shakedowns provided key evidence for investigation

By Elizabeth Pincus

BOSTON — In a dramatic culmination to the well-publicized six-year investigation of police corruption, all seven Boston police detectives charged with racketeering were found guilty on Sept. 13 by a federal jury. The officers, four of whom retired since the probe began, were convicted of extorting thousands of dollars from bar and nightclub owners. Many of the shakedowns occurred at gay establishments, which — according to gay club owners — are often seen as "easy victims" for officers seeking to solicit bribes in exchange for so-called protection.

"Gay clubs are expected to pay more than anybody," said Joseph D'Onofrio, former owner of the Loft, an after-hours gay club. "Gay people can be very easily intimidated. It's very hard to fight back against a corrupt system."

D'Onofrio, who said he refused to pay off cops who frequently raided the Loft in the late '70s and early '80s, is believed to have prompted the federal investigation when he approached the FBI in 1982 with stories of corruption by vice squad detectives. He and Joseph McGowan, the manager of another gay club, The 1270, assisted the U.S. attorney's office in gathering evidence against the cops over the course of several years. Calling the verdict "the end of a 10-year nightmare," D'Onofrio said he had no doubt there would have been retaliation against him and other gay business owners if the officers had been cleared of the charges.

"In fact," he told *GCN*, "there's still a lot of anxiety. Some of these guys [the Boston police] feel that gays should pay for their existence. The police are incredibly powerful and politically well-connected."

The officers convicted in the 58-count indictment are Francis Sheehan, Thomas Connolly, John Carey, Peter Boylan, Kenneth Nave, Matthew Kilroe and John McCormick. They each face up to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000. U.S.

District Court Judge A. David Mazzzone scheduled sentencing for Oct. 11. The verdict marks the close of the initial phase of the investigation, though probes of the police department are expected to continue by the FBI and the Justice Department's Organized Crime Strike Force. Other city officials and licensing board members who were named in court testimony may also face investigation.

The verdict

The jury reached a decision after six days of deliberation, following a heated trial that lasted several months. Evidence for the prosecution included audio and videotapes made by McGowan (manager of the 1270) documenting the exchange of cash between McGowan and several of the defendants. For example, a video made in December 1984 shows officer Carey counting out and pocketing \$1,400 he received from McGowan. The tape reveals Carey saying: "I figure, ah, you know, we can assist you like we have in the past, right?"

Despite attempts by defense attorneys to characterize the officers as cops-on-the-beat who befriended business owners and accepted "Christmas gifts," prosecutors convinced the jury that payments totalling \$18,000 were strong-handed by the officers in exchange for favors. All the defendants were convicted of conspiracy under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), and most were convicted on numerous counts of extortion. In addition, Sheehan and Nave were found guilty of mail fraud.

"The message is that no one is above the law," said prosecutor Diane Kottmyer at a post-verdict press conference. "Police officers who violate the law will be held accountable."

But defense attorneys, citing testimony

Continued on page 3

Quote of the week

"The fags are running the country."

— Francis Sheehan, retired Boston police officer, after being convicted of racketeering and extortion charges for shaking down the owners of gay nightclubs and other bars, as reported in the Boston Herald. Sheehan and six fellow Boston cops were all found guilty of conspiring to extort thousands of dollars, in what the Herald called the police department's biggest corruption scandal ever (see story, pg. 1).

Puerto Rican march to include gay demands

HARTFORD, Conn. — This year's national march for civil rights for Puerto Ricans includes a demand to end violence and discrimination against women, lesbians, gay men and all oppressed people. The annual march commemorates the invasion of Puerto Rico on Aug. 30, 1985, by the U.S. FBI and subsequent arrest of 15 independentistas — people fighting for independence of Puerto Rico. In addition to the demand for liberty and justice for the 15 independence activists and independence for Puerto Rico, the march platform calls for the ouster of U.S. military bases and nuclear arms from the island, an end to police brutality in Puerto Rican communities, "money for jobs, health services and education, not for war," no more building of condos and office buildings over housing, a stop to attacks on unions and more.

Gather for the march on Sept. 24 at 11 a.m. in Hartford's Bushnell Park. For more information in Boston, call (617) 427-6064; in Hartford, (203) 233-7996; in New York, (718) 972-7361.

□ Stephanie Poggi

NY gaybashing

NEW YORK — A recent attack on two gay men on the Upper West Side has caused public outcry and underscored the need for statewide anti-bias legislation to protect gay men and lesbians.

Barry Finnegan, 19, and David Frank, 20, were assaulted by six teenagers after being called "faggies" and "homos" as they walked along 103rd St. between Broadway and Amsterdam Ave. Frank's elbow was smashed by a bat. Finnegan was stabbed in the back and the head, and was hit with a bat that cracked a rib, which punctured a lung. He was taken to St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital, where he was listed in stable condition.

Some media accounts of the incident, particularly a CBS news report, stressed the flamboyant nature of Finnegan's attire in what appeared to be a "revictimization of the victim," said Joyce Hunter, director of social services at the Hetrick-Martin Institute, in an article in the *New York Native*. (The Hetrick-Martin Institute serves lesbian and gay youth.)

Finnegan, who describes himself as a "punker," is in good spirits, Hunter said, "and he told me 'I'm going to be who I am.'"

In addition to the bashing of Finnegan and Frank, recent anti gay violence in New York includes the murder of a gay man jogging in Central Park and another gay man found dead on Christopher Street Pier. In response to the incidents, and to focus attention on the pending anti-bias bill, New York's Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called a rally on Aug. 30 that was attended by over 1000 gay men, lesbians and concerned neighbors in Manhattan's Upper West Side. After the rally, over 100 of the protesters were arrested at a spontaneous sit-down at the intersection of Broadway and 100th.

With the passage of the anti-bias bill, penalties upon prosecution of such hate crimes would increase dramatically. Currently, an anti-bias bill is locked up in a New York Senate subcommittee, political insiders say, because Gov. Mario Cuomo and state Democrats demand the inclusion of gay men and lesbians as a protected category. Other categories are race, creed, religion, sex, age, physical disability and national origin.

Only four states — California, Connecticut, Minnesota and Wisconsin — have passed

ed laws that increase penalties for anti-lesbian/gay violence or require the collection of data on such crimes.

□ John Dooley

Ozone bad for rubbers

LOS ANGELES — Researchers at the University of Southern California (USC) warn that ozone pollutants in the air could be damaging condoms in wallets, glove compartments or anywhere else where the packaging could be perforated, exposing the condoms to polluted air. Ozone levels have reached unhealthy, and potentially condom-damaging levels not only in cities such as Boston and Los Angeles, but even in areas as pristine as Maine's Acadia National Park.

Researchers emphasize that condoms left sealed in plastic seem unaffected by ozone, even after being exposed to the gas for 168 hours, but they also cautioned that "some condoms are sold in bulk packs and circulated without packaging" while others may be stored without protection for long periods during manufacturing or shipping.

These findings were reported in a letter written by seven scientists at USC and published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Robert Staab, head of scientific affairs for Schmid Laboratories, the nation's second largest condom manufacturer, says his company is already aware of the potential danger of ozone on latex. "That's why condoms need to be packaged in airtight packages and why we do stability tests to ensure the packages don't have any failures. It's also why we tell right in our labelling that they should be kept away from heat, light, and ozone."

□ Paul-David Wadler

Philly mayor okays condoms for prisoners

PHILADELPHIA — Mayor W. Wilson Goode has ordered the city's Public Health Department to distribute condoms to prisoners. The Mayor's Prison AIDS Prevention Policy provides that incoming prisoners be given AIDS information packet containing three condoms. Prisoners may now also obtain condoms on request from the city prison's infirmary and receive anonymous HIV-antibody testing and AIDS counseling.

Eight city inmates have died of AIDS. "I do not want to wait until there are 16 or 30 or 40 or 50 inmates who have died before I act," the mayor said. To initiate the new policy, Goode had to overrule the city Prison Board of Trustees, which voted 3 to 2 against the plan on Aug. 22, according to the *Criminal Justice Newsletter*. The board members are appointed by the mayor, who had expected the board to ratify his policy. M. Mark Mendel, the board's most outspoken opponent of the condom policy, agreed that Goode has the authority to overrule the board, but said he would maintain his opposition to it.

A unanimous vote by the Philadelphia City Council last May urged that the prison board develop a policy of condom distribution to prisoners.

□ Jennifer Fechner

Lesbian and gay vets to meet

BOSTON — New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans (NEGLV), a three year-old group that provides networking and a meeting place for lesbians and gay veterans, is always open to new members.

NEGLV advocates civil rights for lesbians and gay men, changes in the anti-gay policies and procedures of the military, more federal funds to combat AIDS, and expanded medical, mental health care and social services for all veterans suffering from AIDS, Agent Orange, Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome, nuclear fallout, homelessness, and drug and alcohol abuse.

The next general membership meeting will be held Sept. 20, at 8:00 p.m. at 84 Gainsborough St., Apt. #005-W in Boston. For more information, please contact Cliff Arnesen at (617) 723-8127.

□ Jennifer Fechner

AIDS TREATMENT NOTES

As part of GCN's efforts to increase its coverage of AIDS medical and treatment issues, we plan to regularly publish "AIDS Treatment Notes." Most of the information here comes from newsletters written and published by people with AIDS (PWAs), people with ARC (PWRCs) and other AIDS activists.

Many of these newsletters print disclaimers withholding their endorsement from any particular treatment options. Like these other sources, GCN provides medical information to encourage discussion about the politics of health and medicine and to help people make personal decisions about AIDS treatments. We do not endorse any specific treatment or study.

Urine as an AIDS treatment

NEW YORK — In September's *Spin* magazine, AIDS columnist Celia Farber reports on urine therapy, a treatment which proponents promise "will rid your body of toxins, strengthen your immunity, and put into remission almost any disease, from leprosy to cancer." The treatment — which Farber says is probably "the oldest natural remedy known to man" — consists of drinking one's own urine, and rubbing it all over one's body. According to advocates, urine therapy has a strong antiviral, antifungal and antibacterial effect, since urine is a bi-product of blood that has been purified and detoxified through the kidneys.

In her article, Farber cites a number of practitioners in support of urine therapy, including a turn-of-the-century physician who allegedly demonstrated that urine causes a reaction in the body similar to vaccines in treatment of infectious diseases. Farber also quotes several contemporary doctors who acknowledge the potential of urine therapy, and points out that former Indian Prime Minister Morarji Desai told *Time* magazine he drinks a glass of his own urine every morning. According to the *Spin* column, a group of about 50 people with AIDS (PWAs) who practice urine therapy are now meeting weekly in Manhattan.

"At first I just laughed and made jokes," Quique Palladino told *Spin*. Palladino, a PWA who now claims to have gone into complete remission due to urine therapy, continued, "All my KS [Kaposi's Sarcoma] lesions are gone. The mouth ulcers that used to plague me have not returned.... my T-cell count has gone up. Being a PWA should bring me many infections, major and minor, but after a whole year I have not even had the flu or a common cold."

□ Elizabeth Pincus

New trimetrexate study broadens eligibility requirements

WASHINGTON — A new study of trimetrexate, a drug that has shown promising results in warding off pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP) will include many people not qualified for five current studies of the drug, according to the *Washington Blade*.

The current studies by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are limited to people who have either responded well or have had an adverse reaction to approved therapies for PCP, FDA spokesperson Brad Stone told the *Blade*.

Physicians wishing to enroll patients in the new study can call NIAID at (800) 537-9978.

□ John Dooley

CD4 human trials get go-ahead

SAN FRANCISCO — The Genetech Corporation has been granted permission for human trials of CD4, its genetically-engineered treatment for AIDS, according to an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. The drug is a protein found on T-helper cells, the cells attacked by the HIV virus, a virus thought by many to be a cause of AIDS. CD4 was developed to act as an alternate target for the HIV virus, thereby lessening the damage that the virus does to the immune system.

According to *AIDS Treatment News*,

there is some danger that injecting CD4 could produce antibodies to the T-helper cells themselves. There has been no sign of this response in animal trials of CD4, but since the drug was engineered for human use only, these tests are not thought to be conclusive.

□ Jim Fauntleroy

Questions about new HIV test

SAN FRANCISCO — Cautions have been raised about the new PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test for HIV. The ultrasensitive test is quite new and several doctors interviewed by *AIDS Treatment News* including Dr. Joseph Sonnabend of the Community Research Initiative in New York, raised several questions about the test:

- The test can detect even a single piece of the genetic material it is designed to detect. So, it can give a false positive if the test materials are not absolutely clean;
- No studies have been done to make sure the test works in a standard way when performed at different labs;
- Only about 200 people have been tested using this method, too few to give accurate data about false positives and false negatives.

□ Jim Fauntleroy

AIDS info book available

GUERNEVILLE, Calif. — Jeremy Bell of Face to Face, an AIDS service organization in Sonoma County, has compiled an 860-page looseleaf book of AIDS information from a PWA (person with AIDS) perspective. *Roads to Recovery* includes chapters on basic AIDS information, legal issues, and doctor-patient relationships. Most of the material, according to *AIDS Treatment News*, concerns treatments, and concentrates on non-approved or alternative options.

Roads to Recovery is available for a \$50 donation. Write to Face to Face, Roads to Recovery Project, P.O. Box 1599, Guerneville, CA 95446, or call (707) 887-1581. The high cost (\$65 for hospitals, institutions and doctors) is to cover the cost of copying the book.

□ Jim Fauntleroy

AmFAR compiles directory of AIDS resources

NEW YORK — The American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR) has published a directory of over 1,000 AIDS brochures and pamphlets, videos, public service campaigns, etc. The directory is divided by target audience, including sections on "Gay and Bisexual Men," "Black Community," and "Health Care Professionals and Service Providers."

AIDS Information Resource Directory is available for \$10 by calling 1-800-992-2873. From outside the U.S. call (212) 333-3118.

□ Jim Fauntleroy

PWA newsletters:

Treatment News, GMHC Department of Medical Information, 132 West 24th Street, Box 274, New York, NY 10011

AIDS Treatment News, Box 411256, San Francisco, CA 94141

PWA Coalition Newsline, 263A West 19th Street, Room 125, New York, NY 10011

Alert, 5300 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 304, Los Angeles, CA 90029

The Body Positive 263A West 19th Street, New York, NY 10011

NEWSNOTES COMPILED BY JENNIE McKNIGHT

CDC slammed (again) at minority AIDS conference

Activists criticize continued government sluggishness and failure to include les/gay concerns at CDC-sponsored meeting

By Guy-Oreido Weston

WASHINGTON — A number of caucuses representing various interest groups criticized the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other government agencies for serious shortcomings in AIDS prevention efforts, during the CDC-sponsored Conference on the Prevention of HIV Infection and AIDS Among Racial and Ethnic Minorities held here Aug. 14-17. Prominent among the issues were barriers to effective government funding for community-based organizations, bureaucratic delays in disbursement of funds, issues relating to cultural sensitivity for various groups, and severe criticisms regarding the availability of treatments for people with AIDS (PWAs).

Criticism was also leveled at conference organizers for their failure to seriously address the issues of lesbians and gay men of color in the conference, which drew over 2000 health educators and health care providers. A conference participant from Boston told *GCN* that "lesbian and gay issues were not dealt with at all."

The Latino caucus organized a walk-out during one of the conference plenary sessions which it described as "an action of

solidarity among groups of people disproportionately affected by the AIDS epidemic."

"It also called attention to the seriousness of our concerns," according to Latino PWA activist Loren Laureano. In an interview, Laureano criticized the system for disbursement of CDC funds for AIDS prevention, citing delays which result from distributing money through state health departments that "sit on funds," charge administrative costs and frequently pass money through other levels of government or bureaucratic structures before it reaches community-based organizations. He also said that the most viable community-based organizations — which are often created specifically to address the AIDS crisis — lose funding to larger established organizations that deal with issues other than AIDS. Laureano added that many of the issues presented in the resolutions were presented at last year's conference and continued to be ignored.

The American Indian caucus, in its resolution, called AIDS education "a matter of survival for the first people of North

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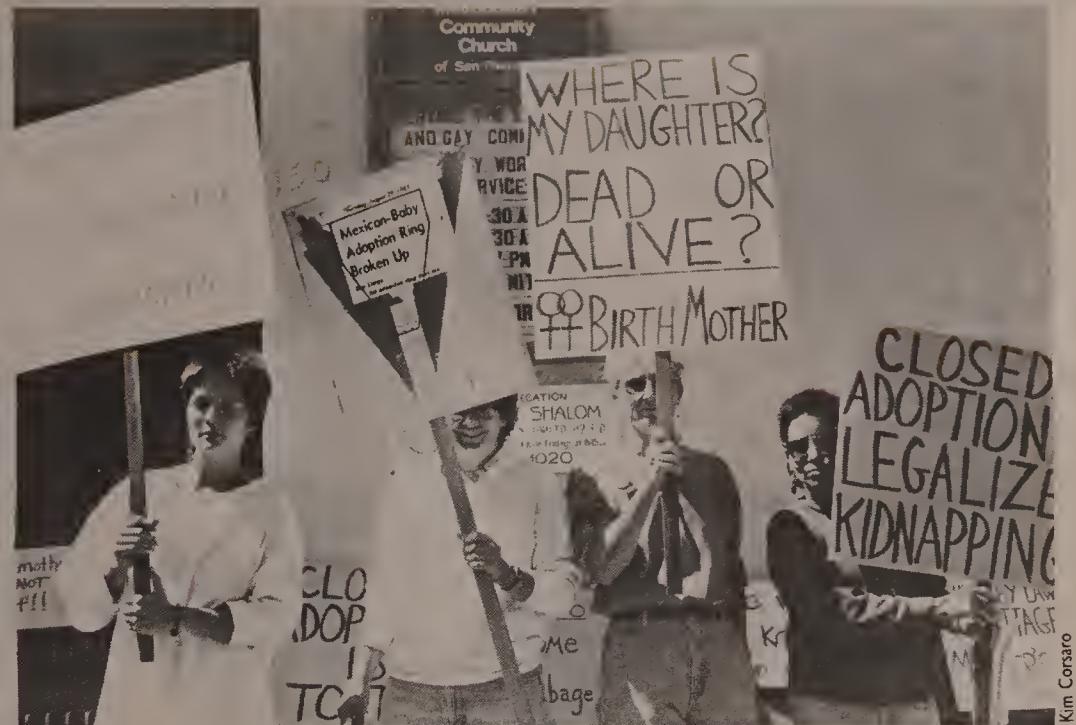
number of people had walked out of the meeting. According to Mosley, the point of contention was a proposal for each state to establish a Black AIDS literature and material review board with membership being at least 50 percent Black clergy. Some gay activists objected to such a proposal, according to Mosley because they said "the Black church has been so silent and inactive about the whole thing" and because the church frequently describes the AIDS crisis as "god's retribution against homosexuals."

Mosley did tell *GCN*, "We are dealing with a national health issue. We don't want to make a gay or lesbian issue out of it." He said one of the group's purposes was to get the church to assert a leadership role and "deal with the [AIDS] problem" to facilitate dialogue between gay people and the church. "The church is not just there to bury them," Mosley said.

This caucus also distributed a document to the press, the CDC, and other government leaders — including the president — in which "a Black coalition of community organizations, community groups and concerned parents adopt priorities with subsequent positions on issues which American Blacks deem important to the survival of the Black family and community." While the statement called for the Black church to take a leadership role in addressing the AIDS crisis in the Black community because of its historical role as a leader in Black community empowerment and social change, it made sweeping criticisms of safe sex guidelines frequently found in AIDS literature.

"We not only categorically reject, but we

Continued on page 10



Parenting controversy brews in SF

SAN FRANCISCO — A handful of adoption rights activists — including lesbian birthmothers and adoptees — picketed a Sept. 10 workshop called "Considering Adoption and Foster Parenting" sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Parenting Project of San Francisco. The demonstrators, who are part of a coalition called the Adoption Rights Taskforce (ART), were protesting the Parenting Project's alleged refusal to allow representation by adoptees and birthmothers in the planning of the workshop. (Birthmothers are women who have physically borne children.)

Fran Miller, executive director of the Lyon/Martin Clinic, one of the sponsoring organizations of the Parenting Project, refuted the protesters' claims. She said the workshop included the participation of two adult adoptees, and was open to input from ART. Miller said the Parenting Project, co-founded by the Lesbian Rights Project, is committed to "promoting different ways of parenting." She explained, "Our mission is to provide information and resources to support gay and lesbian parenting. Our goal is to support diversity, not to have things just one way."

But, according to Kim Corsaro of ART, the Lesbian/Gay Parenting Project has not acknowledged the concerns of lesbian birthmothers and adoptees despite nearly a year of attempts at education and outreach by ART. She explained that lesbian birthmothers and adoptees have no rights or protection under the laws of "closed adoption," and have suffered enormously by being cut off from their biological heritage. ART advocates the right of adoptees to know who their birthparents are and the right of birthparents to know the whereabouts of their offspring. Corsaro said she hoped the lesbian and gay community would not repeat the worst mistakes of mainstream society by following traditional systems of adoption and advocating anonymous donor insemination — both of which prevent adoptees and birthparents from knowing each other.

Calling ART the "progressive arm of the adoption movement," Corsaro stated, "We advocate honesty and openness in adoption. People have a right to know who their parents are, to know their ethnic heritage and identity. I feel like I'm always explaining the obvious. It's as simple as asking, 'Why do you want to know who you are?'"

□ Elizabeth Pincus

Confusion over 'Black Caucus' at conference

By Guy-Oreido Weston

WASHINGTON — A group of health professionals calling themselves the Black Caucus rejected a request to deal with lesbian and gay issues during their meeting at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conference on preventing HIV-infection among minorities (see related story, this page). It was later determined that the group did not represent the official Black Caucus, although lesbians and gay men walked out of the meeting thinking they had been alienated by an official voice.

David Johnson, co-chair of the Multicultural Concerns Committee of Boston's AIDS Action Committee (AAC), said that he and other lesbians and gay men left the meeting, but returned after having been invited to come back. He said the leader of the meeting told them that they had to work together because "we are all family."

Silas Mosley, who was identified as one of the leaders of the caucus group, denies that the disagreement was over addressing lesbian and gay issues and was not aware that a

Continued from page 1

Corruption

Continued from page 1

that described pay-offs ranging from \$100 to \$1,400 at a time, belittled the prosecution's victory. "It's a pretty sad day when the Department of Justice can be proud of this," said attorney Paul Markham.

Kottmyer retorted, "To me that's like saying you can be a little bit corrupt. If you sell yourself cheap, you still sell yourself — and the person who's bought you still owns you."

D'Onofrio was equally disdainful of Markham's comments. "If these cops could be bought off for 100 dollars," he explained, "just think how much a drug dealer could pay to avoid being caught. People could pay off the cops in rape and murder cases.... There's no end to what these guys [the convicted police officers] would do. And the true victims while all of this was going on were the people in the South End and the Back Bay. There was no crime protection at all."

(D'Onofrio referred to the fact that all seven of the convicted detectives worked out of Area D, a region covering the Back Bay and the South End, as well as the Fenway and Allston/Brighton.)

D'Onofrio, who said he chose not to attend most of the trial, described harassment he suffered when he appeared in court in early September to hear the final day of arguments. "The defendants called out 'You faggot! You faggot!' as I got up to leave," he said. "They were screaming and yelling. The judge and reporters all heard it. They saw clearly how abusive the cops are to gay people."

While describing the guilty verdict as "very satisfying," D'Onofrio stated that police and other civic corruption is in no way cleared up. He said he is currently writing a book about "how far and wide corruption is in Boston." D'Onofrio said the book, to be titled *Jail to the Chief: The Politics of Dancing*, will include an account of his involvement in the current police scandal.

In a prepared statement released soon after the verdict was returned on Sept. 13, Boston Police Commissioner Francis

"Mickey" Roache stated: "The Boston Police Department will continue to move forward. We take no joy in these verdicts today, but I believe that they will help to strengthen this department in the long term."

D'Onofrio commented, "[Mayor] Ray Flynn and Mickey Roache still have to be perceived as part of the problem, not the solution. As long as they refuse to set up a citizen review board, things cannot improve. That should have happened well before a federal investigation." □

DC

Continued from page 1

people and communities," said Wolfe.

ACT NOW also demands that the FDA and all government agencies:

- release all promising AIDS treatments, including AL 721, Aerosolized Pentamidine, CD-4, Dextran Sulfate, DHPG, Imreg-1, Trimetrexate, Ampligen, DTC and Isoprolines;

- provide all information on drugs and treatments so that a community-controlled AIDS treatment registry can be created;

- open all treatment trials to the range of people affected by AIDS, including lesbians and gay men, people of color, prisoners, heterosexual men and women, women of child-bearing age, IV drug users and children;

- recognize that people affected by the epidemic must have complete control over all decisions concerning their care and treatment.

ACT NOW has organized a series of events to capitalize on the "new energy for AIDS activism," said Sanders. In addition to the CD at the FDA headquarters, ACT NOW will stage an Oct. 10 rally at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) building that will point out that the entire federal government's irresponsibility in relation to the epidemic. ACT NOW literature reads: the federal government has "responded with underfunded and poorly planned programs riddled with prejudice and indifference. The AIDS crisis has made

Continued on page 11



Ernest Andrews, chair of the National AIDS Black Caucus, addresses participants in the walkout of a session during the CDC-sponsored conference. The walkout was organized by the Latino caucus.

Angry Initiatives/Defiant Strategies

Monday, September 26, 7:30pm. J.P. Firehouse, 659 Centre St., Jamaica Plain.

Produced by John Greyson, this moving and hilarious hour-long video features clips from AIDS-related videos. Presented by GCN and Deep Dish T.V. \$2. Info: 426-4469.

GCN welcomes all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are printed on a space-available basis. The opinions expressed here are those of the author and are not intended to represent the views of the GCN membership. Letters must be TYPED, DOUBLE-SPACED AND NO LONGER THAN THREE PAGES. Send to: Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Don't use the "D" word!

Dear GCN:

Please don't use bigoted, demeaning, homophobic language to describe the many HIV-infected persons who, through no fault of their own, are living and fighting — quite courageously — with HIV-related encephalopathy. I refer to an article by Marea Murray in the August 21-27 issue that not only gives a mainstream, straight medical establishment point of view on the subject, but arrogantly slaps all HIV-infected people — indeed our entire community — in the face with the word "dementia."

It wasn't long ago that we were all — simply by virtue of our homosexuality — considered by medicine and psychiatry to be less-than-human: sick, perverted, abnormal, and deserving of hateful and devastating diagnostic labels. It is sad and shocking that this piece should appear in what many consider to be a progressive and supportive publication, and that it uses this word over and over again, even though it's clear that the scientifically correct — and far more humane — term "encephalitis" would do. Imagine, if you will, reading the epitaph of a loved one who survived a long and heroic battle with AIDS, only to find out that this fallen hero was "demented." Or imagine, if you will, having this label pinned on yourself. It is frightening to think that members of our own community insist on using this kind of language — haven't we had enough?

Workshops, journal articles, and presentations on this subject promote the notion that HIV-positive folks are slipping by without getting nailed with the "dementia" label, as the article's title suggests: "Prevalent and Misdiagnosed." But recent findings published in *The Reporter*, the newsletter of the Chronic Viral Fatigue Syndrome Society, make it clear that the same neurological tests are used for diagnosing HIV infection and "dementia." Only if you are diagnosed as HIV-positive will you be given the "dementia" label.

Furthermore, the one National Institutes of Health (NIH) protocol designed to test AZT for encephalitis was aborted (unfortunately not before it humiliated and destroyed quite a few people) because it was not only unethical and cruel, but because many of its subjects had been misdiagnosed. A growing number of activists feel that the misdiagnosis problem is one of *over-diagnosis* — with tragic, heartbreaking results to the patients involved.

Regardless of the diagnostic issues (and there are many), the word "dementia" needs to be thrown out — right in the garbage heap with spic, nigger, faggot, lezzie and the rest. There are many horrible brain and spinal chord diseases in the nightmarish spectrum of AIDS, and those living with them need all the help they can get. They are, I can assure you, hurting without being called ugly names.

The "encephalitis boom" has provided a whole new crop of potential patients for our swollen ranks of AIDS mental health professionals. There is a real danger the HIV testing will be, as one Republican Party platform writer has suggested, followed routinely with psychiatric, neurological and IQ testing so that these dangerous, dirty and demented folks can be "monitored." IQ testing, as we know, has a rather poor

reputation when it comes to fairness to minorities, and worse, HIV encephalopathy is diagnosed based on estimated premorbid IQ (that is, before HIV infection took hold). Once again, gay people are being labeled as sick based on estimates, as well as the subjective opinions of straight or straight-oriented clinicians who find impaired "affect" — whatever that means. Usually, in gay men, affect is found to be abnormal right off the bat; gay men are "grandiose," "narcissistic," and right after testing positive for HIV, depressed and *understandably rattled*.

Anyone who's interested in finding out more about this subject — from a pro-gay, activist point of view, should contact Iris Long, PhD, of ACT UP/New York, who reviewed the NIH encephalitis protocol and found it so horrendous she testified before Congress on the subject (212-533-8888). Regarding the civil rights issues involved — and there are many — a good resource is the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which is currently pursuing a lawsuit based on misdiagnosis of "dementia" in New York (212-995-8585).

This is a complex and painful subject, but there is one clear point we can all agree on: hurting ourselves and our loved ones by using the hateful words of our oppressors is a trap we can easily avoid. Please, GCN, don't ever print the "D" word again. By and large, you folks are doing a great job — GCN is the toast of the Village these days — and I appreciate, as so many of us do, your great work. This observation and input are simply meant to boost you on ever upward!

Sincerely,
G. Steven Rose
ACT UP New York/Boston Member

Pornography depicting violence toward women

GCN received a copy of this letter, sent to the Movie Connection, 1613A Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. 02115.

Dear Movie Connection:

My name is Jeff Walker. I have been a patron of your store since it opened. You probably know me best as -67/non-member.

As Mission Hill residents, my lover and I were pleased when your video store opened in our neighborhood. We were especially pleased to see that your store was a modern facility, seemingly governed by modern attitudes and ideals. I admit now that my expectations were partially based on both the sexist ideal that women no longer accept degradation imposed upon them by ignorance and aggression, as well as the fact that your management is female.

As the Mission Hill area has successfully integrated its community, a most wonderful sense of neighborhood has developed. Within this small area of the city, people of all colors, sexual preferences and cultural origins co-exist peacefully. As a gay individual who has lived in a world of violent intolerance, I particularly value the balance of acceptance and support amongst the inhabitants here.

Not only do I see the unacceptable attitude of passive acceptance by your management as further deterring my patronage, but I also see it as being completely counter to the more enlightened grain of this neighborhood. In particular, I am objecting to your thoughtless selection and promotion of pornography depicting violence towards women. The hundreds of films you rent directly to a single (of many) neighborhood subcultures perpetuate the ignorance that prefers a woman's enslavement to her employment (let alone her management of her own store!).

At this point, I should explain that I am not opposed to non-violent pornography. I view sex, as well as certain aspects of pornography, as natural and healthy expressions. It is a fine legal and moral line that separates one's freedom of choice from one's exploitation of another. Though the pornography industry has adapted to address such issues as safe sex, it continues to perpetuate sexual violence towards women and children. At the point when the message "violence is pleasurable (especially when met with resistance)" is integrated with sexuality, it is my feeling that here is where we draw the line. If people want pornography, give them sex. If people want violence, let them rent R-rated movies.

I have been increasingly uncomfortable going into your store for the following reasons:

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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SEX. POLITICS.

hindsight

By Elizabeth Pincus

Lesbian thirst

A dazzling new dyke porn video



hindsight

By Michael Bronski

Death, AIDS & the transfiguration

Thoughts on the sexual

grief

gay COMMUNITY NEWS

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"GCN consistently covers the intersection of sex & politics which is often the location of our troubles & our joys — both individually & collectively. GCN is simply the most interesting publication for lesbians & gay men in this country." — Sue Hyde
Sodomy Law Repeal Project
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force

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 6 months, low income, \$12 I am donating
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Mail to: GCN Subscriptions, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

Soon after your opening, you departed from your more mainstream video selections to add photo albums with advertisements for exploitative heterosexual pornography, many of which clearly illustrated violence and aggression towards women.

On another occasion, I visited your store for the final time. Immediately upon entering the store, I was confronted with a large video box proudly displayed just to the right of the door. The movie displayed was called "SNUFF," with the appalling headline: "The rumor is that a woman was actually killed while making this movie...." A nude woman is shown with her hands bound and a bloody knife pointed at her throat (perhaps the only thing missing from this picture was the hand of the movie industry holding the knife).

Though I am not certain of the movie rating, the stars or even the production company, I am certain of the disgust and outrage I feel since I left your store. The myopic marketing policy of your store has alas alienated this viewer entirely.

I have decided not to patronize your store until I am notified that this situation has been rectified. Perhaps I cannot affect the pornography and movie industry directly. However, I believe, that as a facet of that industry, I can affect your store directly by severing our business relationship and alerting others to this situation.

In order for your business to survive in this highly diverse neighborhood, it will have to clean up its act. Stop encouraging violence in an already too violent world. Learn to contribute proudly to the neighborhood which is the source of your income.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey M. Walker
Boston, Mass.

Accidents will happen

Dear GCN:

As a sort of follow-up to the Speaking Out I wrote in the July 10-16 issue ("All Too Familiar"), I wanted to relate a few experiences related to an auto accident I had at the end of that month.

It was a bad accident on a slick mountain road in rural Connecticut, and I had to be helicoptered to a hospital in Hartford. Conscious the whole time, I was asked questions once in the trauma unit about whether I injected drugs ("not even IV cocaine?") and where I worked ("Gail and who?") the confused clerk asked as I repeated *Gay and Lesbian Health*. We talked about working with RIVDUs [recreational IV drug users].

Perhaps the most telling moment occurred when a nurse ran in shortly after they asked me about my drug usage, whispered to the nurse I was talking with, and both asked me if I had any "communicable disease." The firemen at the scene had called, worried because they hadn't used gloves and, I suspected, because after they dispatched me to the hospital, they noticed my "Fight AIDS Not People With AIDS" bumper sticker. I almost said "No, but I work with people with AIDS" but in pain, I decided against stirring things up more than I already had. Ha.

And I looked at the blood-spattered ceiling in the trauma unit and had to laugh when a volunteer came in and said "How are we doing, son?" A day in the life??

As ever,
Marea Murray
Allston, Mass.

More on Joint Venture

Dear GCN:

It's about time that somebody spoke up about the goings-on at Joint Venture. John Norman's letter is right on the mark! I'm currently incarcerated in California and am one of the many prisoners who have had trouble with Joint Venture.

Some time ago I wrote JV trying to find new friends and (if I was lucky) someone that I could consider a lover when I am released. One of the responses that I received was from someone who I had very little in common with, so I did not wish to correspond. I had the courtesy to write back and thank this man for answering my ad, and inform him that I didn't think that a tight friendship could develop.

In return, I received a letter from JV giving me hell for not wishing to correspond with their client. Is this Nazi Germany or what? They stated that their clients had to pay one dollar for each prisoner that the client wished to correspond with and that if I didn't wish to correspond with EVERY person who wrote me I would be "blackballed"

and not listed with them.

And the coup de grace occurred when my counselor called me in and told me that JV had attempted to extort information about me from him. After he informed them that he couldn't give any information over the phone, they were very belligerent with him, which put me in an awkward position with my counselor.

A person would figure that if JV was really trying to protect the public from prisoners who want to hustle gay people, then they wouldn't FORCE incompatible people to write each other. Two years ago I thought my problems with JV were an isolated incident and I didn't want to be a spoilsport and air the problems that I was having. Now I say: GCN readers, beware, JV is not interested in your well being. The only thing they want is your almighty dollar.

James Bayt
C-18132
PO Box 1902-A
Tehachapi, CA 93561

What does 'gay' have to do with it?

Dear GCN:

I greet you with enthusiasm and curiosity. My name is Akinogun Ifetinuke, even though the 'powers that be' call me Charles Kinnel. I write you seeking understanding, having become somewhat politically conscious. I often ask myself 'what are gay issues?' I mean, to me homosexuality refers to one's sexual preference, so where do sexual preferences come into play when, say, a homosexual wants a job, housing, etc. I'm not saying sex shouldn't be discussed openly. I'm only asking what and where are the connections between sexual preference and politics???

I received your name and address from the Prison Book Program and I would like to receive a subscription and also communicate with people for friendship and understanding.

(When I use the term 'gay' I'm referring to lesbians also. Accept my regret if I've offended anyone.)

By the grace of reality,
Akinogun Ifetinuke, aka Charles Kinnel
PO Box 41 — 29226
Michigan City, IN 46360

Too old (or whatever) and left hanging and wondering

Dear GCN:

Too all our gay brothers and sisters out there in the free world, if you write to someone in prison then don't just stop after he or she writes back to you, because you feel he or she is too old or whatever and leaving us hanging and wondering what is wrong. I have had it happen to me and it isn't fair for us to be alone and not have someone to write to us. I for one don't ask for anything from no one. I get by the best I can. I might be 50 years old but I too do like to be liked and wanted like the rest of you out there.

It costs \$1.50 to have a photo taken in here every time someone out there asks and I only get 60 cents a day (5 days in a week) and I just want to help the readers of this fine newspaper which I enjoy a lot understand that we are lonely too (in prison). People shouldn't write if they aren't going to keep on or at least let us know.

Thanks again for the GCN paper!

Robert Lee
86C 0766
Box 367A
Dannemora, NY 12929

Be careful and sensible about gay archives

Dear GCN:

I would like to respond to the highly charged and inaccurate letter from Robert Halfhill about the possibility that the Southern California Gay and Lesbian Archives would be moved to Minnesota.

Dick Hewitson of the Quatrefoil Library here, who, though unnamed, was the target of the letter, would agree with Halfhill in most of his assertions, except the accusation that Hewitson "sabotaged" the effort to bring the collection here. Hewitson maintains a membership with the Archives and supports the need to save and make accessible the collection.

Along with David Erwin, Hewitson provided the impetus, most of the materials, and the money to create Quatrefoil, a lending library of Gay and Lesbian materials. Its

Board of Directors has clearly stated that they have no objection to bringing the collection here, but cannot be involved in it because they have all they can handle keeping Quatrefoil open and available.

There are, however, some practical considerations which militate against bringing the collection to Minnesota.

1. To transport the collection, some of which is very fragile, to Minnesota would cost about \$250,000.

2. According to realtor Clark Bufkin, who was asked to find space for the collection, the amount and kind of space required, climate controlled, can only be found in the fourth ring of suburbs here, where new buildings are going up daily. That would make the collection largely inaccessible due to minimal transit service. Further, climate controlled space would cost a prohibitive 8 to 9 dollars/square foot. It is estimated that the collection would require at least 6,000 square feet of space to be usable or a minimum of \$54,000/year for rent alone.

3. To render a very basic cataloging system on the collection and make it accessible to scholars would require a minimum of 24 months full-time work by an experienced cataloger, according to Hennepin County Library's head cataloger, Sandy Berman. That amounts to \$30,000 per year in wages alone, without taking into consideration the materials required to do the job. To render a detailed, and consequently more effective, cataloging of the materials would cost quite a bit more in time and services of a librarian. In addition, both the Dewey Decimal and Library of Congress cataloging systems would not be very effective, since all the materials would wind up in two areas (history and fiction), so the job requires an ingenious cataloger who can invent a system pertinent to the materials.

4. A great deal of the materials in the collection are specific to southern California. Transporting it to Minnesota would not necessarily enhance its accessibility to those most likely to research California Gay and Lesbian history. As well, southern Californians have expressed resentment at the prospect of moving the collection to Minnesota, thereby making their accessibility to what is essentially their history more difficult.

One of the concerns that has provided impetus for bringing the collection here is the fear that should the collection be folded into an already existing library (UCLA's, for example), Christian organizations might be able to get hold of and destroy the erotic materials. However, in moving the collection to any institution, presumably we would be intelligent enough to seek legal talent to execute the contract by which the collection is transferred. As well, librarians are not at all sympathetic to book burning or destruction of historical materials.

Clearly, regardless of where the collection is finally located, it will require very large sums of money to move, house, catalog and operate it. If we choose to keep this Archive alive, and I would suggest that we owe it to ourselves to maintain our historical records, we will need to make careful, sensible choices about gathering the necessary funds and allocating them logically.

Wizard Marks
Minneapolis, Minn.

Bar space for gay youth

(GCN received a copy of this letter to CAMPUS, a gay bar in Cambridge, Mass.)

Dear CAMPUS,

On behalf of the steering committee, adult advisory board and entire membership of BAGLY [Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth], I would like to thank you and your staff for making the eighth annual BAGLY anniversary party a success.

By offering the use of CAMPUS for our party, we were able to throw a more lavish affair than we thought possible. We had a much better space for our celebration; and with the heat, the air-conditioning was quite welcome. You made the party better simply by offering us a comfortable place, rather than some sweltering, drab hall. And on top of that, by donating your space, you saved us the expense of rent for a hall.

Furthermore, we appreciate your generosity because it shows your concern for BAGLY, and on a larger scale, gay youth in general. They need a place where they don't feel so isolated and alone, a place where they can be with other gay kids. BAGLY tries to be that place, and by helping us, we can see that you obviously understand

that need.

We appreciate your help. It's a nice feeling to see one segment of the gay community reach out and help another. We can never be too cooperative with each other.

Once again, thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Paul R. Dixon
Adult Advisor, BAGLY

Pardon gay man for diminished capacity

(GCN received a copy of this letter to Calif. Governor George Deukmejian.)

Dear Governor Deukmejian:

I am writing to request that you grant a pardon to Robert M. Rosenkrantz, who is serving a sentence of 17 years to life at the prison in San Luis Obispo. Mr. Rosenkrantz was 18 when he killed another youth while in a state of diminished capacity. The other youth had revealed to Rosenkrantz's family and friends that Rosenkrantz was Gay and the killing occurred during a desperate attempt by Rosenkrantz to force the other youth to say he had made the whole thing up. He reported at his trial that he was in a daze during this incident.

If Dan White could get off with a light sentence by pleading temporary insanity when he murdered Harvey Milk, Robert Rosenkrantz should be able to have his sentence commuted also. While I cannot approve of killing under these circumstances, I can remember how desperate I would have been at 18 if someone threatened to reveal that I was Gay.

Furthermore, Mr. Rosenkrantz had shown every promise before this tragedy of becoming a valuable and productive member of society. He had never been a disciplinary problem in high school, had maintained a B average and had plans to attend college and later law school.

I urge you to consider Mr. Rosenkrantz's youth and state of diminished capacity at the time of the incident and his demonstrated potential to become a contributing member of society and grant him a pardon.

Sincerely,
Robert Halfhill
Minneapolis, Minn.

Corny jokes etc. relax you and aid healing

Dear GCN:

People who concentrate on their illness tend to get depressed and worried about their future health, thus causing their body to deal with stress so it cannot concentrate fully on the healing process. Being homosexual and/or a drug user isn't the easiest lifestyle to live. If it is not the police or the politicians breathing down our necks, screaming 'shame!' and 'danger!', it is neighbors and outright strangers hurling threats and insults. In prison the tension and stress is worse yet, partly because one is locked away from the few loved ones you have.

The crowning blow is when a non-caring medical assistant simply informs you that you are HIV positive or have AIDS and then leaves you alone. You are surrounded by negative people with negative attitudes.

And yet, there are people who are dealing with it every day and will continue to do so. Myself and some very close friends here are PWAs and HIV positive people. AIDS and its cohorts are very unstable and unpredictable and one never knows what to expect to happen next. There is no reason to give the body more stress to deal with than it already has. It seems to us that a positive attitude has been helpful.

If you wish to write to comment on this or to relay any related information, it will be acknowledged and welcomed.

Marvin Nowell
427154 (P-2-17)
PO Box 16
Lovelady, TX 75851

The role of the lesbian/gay press in the age of AIDS

An agenda for community and health

The following is a presentation that was made at the International Lesbian/Gay Health Conference and AIDS Forum, held in Boston, July 20-26.

By Cindy Patton

There is a tendency to view health coverage in the gay and lesbian media as synonymous with the coverage of AIDS. This may be attributed to the fact that AIDS has been a uniquely dramatic issue to cover; it has so rapidly both caused anguish and revitalized activism in our international community. And this has occurred at a time when our first tastes of liberation made it seem that things would get better, not worse. While the experience of AIDS has made health an encompassing issue and has brought into sharp relief the extent to which our lives are already defined and controlled by medical logic, our community came into this crisis with commonly held perceptions about the possibilities of health for homosexuals.

Our lesbian/gay press came into the epidemic with the assumption that we should play some role in promoting health within our community. Various publications may be hotly divided on how that is to be done, but even this preliminary agreement distinguishes us from the mainstream press. At the recent IVth International AIDS Conference in Stockholm, Jim Nunn, formerly of KPIX in San Francisco, and now one of the World Health Organization's advisors on the role of the media, said that the "media" (by which he meant the mainstream Western press, since not a single representation of the gay/lesbian, U.S. Black, or African press corps was represented on the AIDS and Media panel he convened) should not try to "educate" people about AIDS, by which he meant offer advice on safe sex or injecting drug hygiene. He — and many of the mainstream press members at the workshop — failed to perceive that their "coverage" creates widespread misperceptions about AIDS and HIV which have cost precious educational time and creates a significantly worse quality of life for all lesbians and gay men, injecting drug users, people of color, hemophiliacs, and anyone else associated with AIDS. The mainstream media people at the panel set "improving the learning curve" of writers as one of their goals, but they did not suggest working with the minority media's experts as part of this education.

We need the mainstream press — they have money and power and access to information that no individual lesbian/gay paper can mount. Once you learn to read between the lines, you can get a lot of useful information from the *Times*, *Globe*, or *Washington Post*, and I'm sure there have been good feature stories even in many small-town papers. But by its very attitudes, the mainstream press does not see us as their audience — they write for the general public, and try as we might, we are not part of it. For example, most papers continue to use incorrect terms like "the AIDS virus," which creates the public perception that HIV infection leads directly and rapidly to death from AIDS, a misconception that increases public anxiety and affects public policy. They disregard the effects of their language on the quality of our lives with the excuse that talking about HIV will "confuse" people.

In Boston, I think the mainstream media people have been quite responsive to being educated about AIDS — I hope they will also work to educate their colleagues about the affects of mainstream media errors on real people's lives.

The Lesbian and Gay Press: Building Community, Creating Health

The lesbian and gay press — from bar rags to high brow academic journals — has been essential in welding together a politically, racially, geographically, and economically diverse group of lesbians and gay men from around the world. Central to creating this sense of community has been promoting health — originally mental health. The gay and lesbian press has both directly and in-

directly paved the way to understanding ourselves as "healthy homosexuals" in a climate that has sought to medicalize, psychologize, and pathologize our sexuality. Directly, our media have run articles, debates, letters about positive self image, about recent developments on the mental health front, about drug and alcohol abuse, and internalized homophobia. Periodicals also cover gay and lesbian cultural activities, which are an expression of ourselves as healthy, diverse contributors to society.

In an indirect sense, the mere existence — and vast proliferation of — the gay and lesbian press has given legitimacy to talking about ourselves, to being open, at least in the confines of our homes. Having an active press — and the gay/lesbian press has uniquely active letters and forum pages — has made our curiosity about ourselves a source of pride, not a source of shame linked with neurotic sex-obsession or narcissism.

Direct coverage of mental and physical health care has broken down on gender lines, an historic reality that takes on particular significance as AIDS occupies more of our content, and is identified by some as a "men's issue." The different ways in which lesbians identify with or deny AIDS as a political, personal, and health issue and the reluctance of gay men to acknowledge the contributions of lesbians in AIDS organizing, and the reality that women and lesbians are also people living with AIDS, have provoked complicated and bitter battles over sexism. The publications with gender-mixed staffs and a commitment to challenging sexism have an especially important role to play in addressing these issues in their AIDS coverage as well as in addressing AIDS-related issues of class and race.

Health coverage before AIDS

Lesbians and gay men have differing degrees of social visibility and different health care needs. Although lesbians and gay men have both been concerned about mental health, the stress of the closet, and substance abuse, in the past there have been more gender-specific health issues discussed.

In the late '70s, gay men were concerned about sexually transmitted diseases, especially hepatitis. It is quite interesting to look back at those discussions in light of the subsequent emergence of safe sex culture and AIDS. Already in the late '70s, gay men were talking about using condoms or restricting their sexual activities or partners in response to concern about sexually transmitted diseases. There was an early, politicized awareness that gay men's health had been mishandled by focusing on antibiotic treatment rather than prevention, and a beginning perception that what we now call safe sex could be an important way of promoting both individual health and group unity.

At this same time, lesbians were (they continue to be) concerned about their health care needs as women — cervical and breast cancer, and the role we found ourselves playing in the lives of lesbian friends with terminal illnesses who needed care outside traditional family structures. We were also concerned about getting donors for alternative insemination and beginning to debate the social and psychological shifts that would result from the increasing number of mid-twenties to mid-thirties lesbians who wanted to have babies. Lesbians were less concerned with sexually transmitted diseases, although Pat Califia's *Sapphistry* suggested that there were STDs which were not contingent on semen for transportation and that there were psychological health issues related to sexual practice that lesbians needed to address. A growing number of psychologists were trying to help lesbians find fulfilling sex lives in their long-term, often monogamous relationships.

AIDS and the gay and lesbian media

AIDS shifted health coverage and political/social coverage as we tried to make medical decisions, fight the homophobic AIDS-related backlash, and simply try to make sense of our anger and grief in the vast

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Safer Sex and Drug Use Guidelines

Assessing individual risk for AIDS and other illnesses is the first step towards using safer sex and drug use guidelines. Only you and your partner(s) can decide how much risk is acceptable — take stock of your sexual and drug use histories.

Be aware that the highest concentrations of HIV (the virus widely thought to cause AIDS) are found in blood and semen. The most common routes of HIV transmission are through sharing needles and unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse.

GCN's guidelines come from a wide variety of sources aimed at various communities concerned about the AIDS epidemic and health in general. We want to confront the prevailing "no sex is best" attitude and present an approach that is as sex-positive as possible.

Information for gay male, lesbian and bisexual communities

Safer sex can include: massage, hugging, kissing, erotic talk, phone sex, masturbation (solo, pairs and groups), using your own vibrators, dildos or other sex toys and s/m, butch/fem role-playing, fantasy scenes, bondage and other activities that do not involve the exchange of semen or blood (including menstrual blood).

Do not allow a partner's semen or blood (including menstrual blood and blood drawn from piercing, cutting or shaving) to enter your vagina, anus, mouth or breaks in your skin.

Use condoms for fucking (anal and vaginal intercourse), for licking/sucking penises and for covering dildos and other sex toys. Use water-based lubricants. Use latex barriers (dental dams or other plastic/latex materials) between the genital area and mouth when licking/sucking cunts and assholes. Be especially careful to avoid the exchange of menstrual blood. Using nonoxynol-9 or other spermicides with condoms and latex barriers may add extra protection.

For finger-fucking or fisting (anal or vaginal

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penetration with fingers or hands), use latex gloves or finger cots. Use water-based lubricants.

Alternative insemination may put you at risk. Be sure to discuss risk for AIDS with potential donors or sperm bank.

Be aware that some risk of exposure to immune-suppressing infections (such as mono and amoebiasis) may be associated with rimming (anal-oral contact) — use a latex barrier. Risk may also be associated with watersports (urine) or feces in the mouth, rectum or in open cuts. If you share dildos, vibrators or other sex toys, use condoms or clean toys with hydrogen peroxide.

Your body's ability to fight all disease, including AIDS and its related illnesses (such as Kaposi's Sarcoma and pneumocystis carinii pneumonia), may be benefitted by general good health — good nutrition, lots of rest, exercise and nonabuse of alcohol, poppers and other drugs.

If you use IV drugs, follow the guidelines below.

Intravenous drug use

Do not share works (needles, syringes, droppers, spoons, cottons or cookers).

Do not re-use needles; use fresh cottons each time.

If you must share or re-use your works, clean them as follows: dip needle and works into 100 percent bleach, draw up and release three times, dip needle and works into water, draw up and release three times (in an emergency, rubbing alcohol, vodka or wine can also be used). As an alternative, boil works in water for at least fifteen minutes. Use a fresh solution each time you clean your works.

Resource phone numbers

National AIDS Hotline 1 (800) 342-7514
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) Boston (617) 536-7733
Latino AIDS Hotline (bilingual), Boston (617) 262-7248
AIDS Action Committee (AAC) IV Drug Use Taskforce, Boston (617) 437-4200
Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), New York (212) 807-6655
National Minority AIDS Council (NMAC), Washington, D.C. (202) 544 1076
Women's AIDS Network, San Francisco (415) 864 4376

Les/gay press

Continued from page 6

changes occurring with the illness, death, and changing sexual mores in our community. The complete history of the gay and lesbian press's coverage of AIDS is a massive project worthy of historians and political analysts. Here I want only to suggest several factors which have — and continue — to inform decisions about AIDS and health coverage.

As we reassess the role of our press in health coverage, the debates and lessons learned from AIDS and AIDS writing can serve as a paradigm for other health coverage. We need to view health writing not as something we do until AIDS is cured, but as an overdue, ongoing area of expertise. (I realized about a year ago that I now know more about gay male health than about lesbian health.) A subtle part of the right wing re-emergence is the remedicalization of homosexuality, drug use, poverty, and ethnicity, with the result that lesbians and gay men, drug users, the poor, and people of color are coming under more extensive surveillance and social control through medical and psychological practice.

Critiques of the politics of science and medicine were important in demedicalizing and depathologizing the concept of homosexuality, and critiques of the politics of science are equally important in understanding HIV illnesses and the politics surrounding the AIDS crisis. AIDS coverage may dominate our health coverage for some time to come, but lesbians and gay men must arm ourselves with a sophisticated and critical understanding of medicine and of science as part of our political analysis moving into the 21st century.

1. How much coverage? There have been many reasons given for why too much AIDS coverage is a bad thing — it overshadows other significant events in our community, it makes AIDS seem like a "gay disease," it's depressing, it inures people to dealing with AIDS; it makes AIDS seem uncontrollable. The real question is how to cover AIDS, not

It was learning about epidemiology that enabled us to identify the gender and race biases in research, education and allocation of services.

how many inches to devote to AIDS coverage. For many of us, AIDS issues are inseparable from the other issues in our lesbian/gay lives — AIDS has not only intensified homophobia and discrimination, it has served as a focal point for articulating related issues ... our concerns with aging and changes in our ability to care for ourselves and whether our community will be there for us; our concerns about linking our struggle with people facing other forms of oppression; our ability to get social structures to respond to basic human needs; our ability to survive. Thus, for people intensely affected by the AIDS crisis, there is a need not only to talk about AIDS, but to talk about our other problems in terms of AIDS. If we once used homophobia as the framework for analysis and understanding our experience, many of us now use the daily realities and analogies available with AIDS to frame our experience. The perceptions of how encompassing AIDS is will vary depending on how involved people are in AIDS work. Too much or too little are terms respective to their perceived reality of people in the community. Each media outlet has a responsibility to help people in their community get a realistic sense of the immediate and local as well as long term and national relationship to the AIDS crisis.

2. We can't cover science. The reasons given here are usually: staff writers don't have a science background; people from gay health clinics — which are often political institutions as well as medical ones — are biased; it confuses people to read about science in a gay/lesbian paper; there is too much science to stay on top of; the science is all lies. As the epidemic has developed, many people who were not previously science writers have become quite good at writing about AIDS science. Lesbian and gay media shouldn't aim at covering everything that appears in medical journals, but we should be prepared to give the right story when the straight press gets it wrong, in order to provide a critical perspective on what research is not getting done, what studies aren't being reported, and how the categories of science

(like "risk group") are used against us in society.

It was educating ourselves about research that enabled AIDS activists to begin to intelligently demand release of experimental drugs and form projects like the Community Research Initiative (a grassroots project in New York that designs more equitable drug trials especially on low-cost and already-used drugs). It was learning about epidemiology that enabled us to identify the gender and race biases in research, education, and allocation of services.

3. Creating positive images. This has received less heated debate than other aspects of AIDS coverage, but is essential for promoting health and survival in our community. Already, the papers in the large urban areas have run features portraying people living full lives with AIDS, ARC, and HIV Ab+ (antibody positive). Although there continue to be devastating examples of sexism, homophobia, and racism in attitudes and services for HIV infected people, we need to hear stories of survival and stories about the ordinariness of daily life under AIDS. We also need stories and critical analysis about how our communities are reorganizing institutional priorities and group attitudes in order to accept the reality of AIDS. As the experience of knowing people living with AIDS, ARC and HIV Ab+ becomes the dominant one in many cities, we need to reflect how this redefines our sense of community and commitment to each other.

We could also profit from more positive and erotic images of safe sex. We need to break down the traditional *cordon sanitaire* between the skin magazines and the newspapers. A number of the skin magazines — notably *Drummer*, *Stallion* and the *Advocate*-owned magazines — have initiated discussions of safe sex. It is now time for the newspapers to bend a little. *GCN* published a sexually explicit safe sex guide in 1984, authored by myself, Michael Bronski, and Bob Andrews, with illustrations by Paul Brouillet. Last spring it began providing these positive images again.

4. Advocating for others. The gay and lesbian press has done a good, if sometimes uneven job of promoting our interests in health care. It is critical that we join together with other communities with specific health care issues — whether they be AIDS-related or others. The progressive wing of the lesbian and gay press has in the past tried to link up the concerns of women, people of color, the disabled, the poor, with gay/lesbian issues. There is exciting coalition-building between these groups in the AIDS movement, and our media should be reporting on these events and advocating for things like needle exchange programs, programs more sensitive to concerns of communities of color, services needed by women in AIDS work — like child care at meetings — and assessment of sexist and racist attitudes among activists. Our writers worked hard early in the epidemic to make these linkages — the *Philadelphia Gay News*, for example, broke the first stories about AIDS and communities of color based on some buried CDC statistics. We need to continue advocating for and working together with groups to create a broad analysis and unified plan to improve health care.

If AIDS is viewed as a unique issue, then AIDS activists are condemned to repeat the mistakes of earlier health movements.

5. Renew coverage of other health issues. Lesbian/gay childrearing, substance abuse, aging, and lesbian/gay mental health are still vital issues that need ongoing coverage. Because AIDS coverage has, in many papers, become so sophisticated and complex, coverage of other health issues sometimes seems unimportant or superficially analyzed.

We need to apply the lessons about AIDS coverage to other health issues, both so that they get the coverage they deserve and so that the health activists working in different areas can intelligently share their experience and analysis. This will require, however, that people working on AIDS (especially white middle-class men who are new to organizing) recognize that while AIDS is devastating and the most focal issue of our time, it is not completely unique. If AIDS is viewed as a unique issue, then AIDS activists are condemned to repeat the mistakes

Continued on page 12

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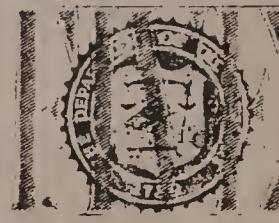
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QUEEN

GOING ALL

By Charley Shively

For four years Abraham Lincoln shared one bed with Joshua Speed; he also shared his bed (even in the White House) with one night stands. Understanding Lincoln's homosexuality can clarify many mysteries about the Railsplitter. William Herndon, his law partner of sixteen years and an active heterosexual, wrote in the three volume *Lincoln* that Abe was "a profound mystery — an enigma — a sphinx — a riddle." In trying to understand the enigma, writers have thoroughly explored (and even freely invented) love affairs with women while ignoring homosexual activities.

Joshua Speed has always been called Lincoln's "most intimate friend." Lincoln's White House secretaries and official biographers, John G. Nicolay and John Hay, wrote that, "It is hardly too much to say that he was the only — as he was certainly the last — intimate friend that Lincoln ever had." Speed's portrait from the time he met Lincoln shows a very gay young man, a counter-jumper, a serious soul with big watery eyes and sensuous lips. He was originally from Kentucky, as was Lincoln, and he kept a general store in Springfield. Lincoln was a tall, gangly man with huge feet and hands, already a legendary railsplitter and politician. Speed clearly was turned on by the wild, loose but sensitive character of "Mr. Lincoln [who] was then twenty-seven years old — a lawyer without a client, no money, all his earthly wealth consisting of the clothes he wore and the contents of his saddle-bags." The counterjumper himself describes how he got the railsplitter into bed:

It was in the spring of 1837, and on the very day that he obtained his license [to practice law], that our intimate acquaintance began. He had ridden into town on a borrowed horse, with no earthly property save a pair of saddle-bags containing a few clothes.... Lincoln came into the store with his saddle-bags on his arm. He said he wanted to buy the furniture for a single bed. The mattress, blankets, sheets, coverlid, and pillow, according to the figures made by me, would cost seventeen dollars. He said that was perhaps cheap enough; but small as the sum was, he was unable to pay it. But if I would credit him till Christmas, and his experiment as a lawyer was a success, he would pay then, saying, in the saddest tone, 'If I fail in this, I do not know that I can ever pay you.' As I looked up at him I thought then, and think now, that I never saw a sadder face.

I said to him, 'You seem to be so much pained at contracting so small a debt, I think I can suggest a plan by which you can avoid the debt and at the same time attain your end. I have a large room with a double bed up-stairs, which you are very welcome to share with me.'

"Where is your room?" said he.
"Up-stairs," said I, pointing to a pair of winding stairs which led from the store to my room.

He took his saddle-bags on his arm, went up stairs, set them down on the floor, and came down with the most changed countenance. Beaming with pleasure he exclaimed, 'Well, Speed, I am moved!'

Speed's biographer Robert L. Kincaid describes their gay interaction like this: "Thus it was that Joshua Fry Speed and Abraham Lincoln passed the first hours in their bed together. Speed saw in Lincoln the rough-hewn product of the frontier.... In Joshua Fry Speed, Abraham Lincoln saw a youth who was truly a 'gentleman to the manor born.'" The two men shared the same bed for four years and both Speed and Lincoln always used the specific term "four years" in the way lovers mention anniversaries; they never said "several" or "many...." Both had counted the years and held them sacred. Kincaid concluded, "How much Speed contributed to the development of Lincoln in the four years they slept together is idle speculation, but

their kindred hopes and ambitions fused into a unity and understanding which was never broken."

If there were ever any quarrels or differences between Speed and Lincoln, they have not been recorded. Their separation was brought on by events beyond their control. Speed's father died, forcing him to return to Louisville to help settle the estate and to comfort his mother. While there, Speed was pressured into a marriage much against his wishes and Lincoln himself sought out a substitute for Speed in Mary Todd. Like Speed, Todd was from an upper class Kentucky background, was well educated and was attracted to the tall man's prospects. But Lincoln could not go through with marriage to Todd at this point, cancelling the plans on January 1, 1841. Mourning for his Joshua who had left him, Lincoln was thrown into the depths of despair. A friend wrote, "We have been very much distressed, on Mr. Lincoln's account; hearing that he had two Cat fits and a Duck fit since we left." Toward the end of the month, Lincoln himself wrote his law partner John Stuart, "I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on the earth. Whether I shall ever be better I can not tell: I awfully forebode I shall not."

Lincoln recovered only after he had joined Speed that summer in Kentucky. Speed's biographer holds that, "No incident in Lincoln's life was perhaps more enjoyable than his visit in the Speed home at 'Farmington' Near Louisville in August and September, 1841." But when Speed married in February, 1842, Lincoln wrote from Springfield, "I feel somewhat jealous of both of you now; you will be so exclusively concerned for one another, that I shall be forgotten entirely."

Mother Speed gave the skeptic Lincoln a copy of the Bible to restore his spirits, but Lincoln never really recovered from the loss of this his greatest love. As he mused in a letter to Speed about their friendship:

I regret to learn that you have resolved not to return to Illinois. I shall be very lonesome without you. How miserably things seem to be arranged in this world. If we have no friends, we have no pleasure; and if we have them, we are sure to lose them, and be doubly pained by the loss.

Lincoln never forgot Speed; he wanted to name his first born after Joshua (Mary objected). After Lincoln was elected President, he saw Speed several times and found time for them to be alone together. In Chicago, the president-elect arranged for Mary to divert Speed's wife so they could slip off together to Speed's hotel room. "When the two men were alone, Lincoln stretched his long frame upon the bed, and," according to Speed's biographer, "offered a post to Speed... but Speed declined."

What more evidence could be called for in proving Joshua Speed and Abraham Lincoln were lovers? Lincoln's breakdown after his separation from Speed was always recognized by him as the lowest point in his life. Since Lincoln was a lawyer and Speed quite discreet, their physical relations never came into court. Indeed homosexuality seems not to have been a prosecuted crime in the circuits where Lincoln practiced. And snobbishness and pretentiousness more than lustiness led to social ostracism. Lincoln as a lawyer/politician and Speed as a store-keeper had finely honed skills for giving people what they wanted: folksy friendliness. Neither man was exclusively homosexual but that they were married and had sexual intercourse with women is not evidence they were *not* homosexual. Suppose something quite unlikely: the two men never had any "genital contact" during

four years they shared the same bed. Would that abstinence have made them any less homosexual? Speed was no casual pick-up; he was Lincoln's type. Like Mary Todd Lincoln he was a Southern belle; was a couple of classes above Lincoln; supported the tall man in his ambitions; and knew just how to soothe and relieve his depressions.

What biographer Jean H. Baker writes of Mary Todd was equally true of Joshua Speed: "she provided a marriage-long course in middle-class etiquette." Lincoln could never have become President had he remained a "common man." Speed began Abe's socialization into the middle class, which Todd later continued. To become chief executive, Lincoln had first to betray his class and then to betray his love of men. The main difference between Mary and Joshua in their relations with Lincoln was that Lincoln tried to spend all his time with Speed while he was eager to get away from Mary.

Women were never Lincoln's first choice as love objects. Sarah Lincoln (his beloved stepmother) recalled that he never took much to the young girls. Indeed he seems to have been repelled from women as sexual partners. One grisly tale concerns Matilda, his stepsister, who had secretly followed him into the woods for a "good long chat and a wild romp." Matilda found Abe splitting wood and as a surprise jumped on his back while he was splitting wood. As she jumped he "accidentally" axed her in the thigh (some more genteel accounts say "ankle"). Lincoln then tore off the "tail of his undergarment" to stop the bleeding. One psychohistorian, Chuck Strozier, writes that,

The issue then became what to tell Sarah. Matilda was inclined to lie but Lincoln urged her to tell the truth.... This ruthless honesty is ostensibly the point of the story.... However, the sexual play and excitement between adolescent siblings unrelated by blood, living in a one-room cabin, seem the deeper meaning of the anecdote.

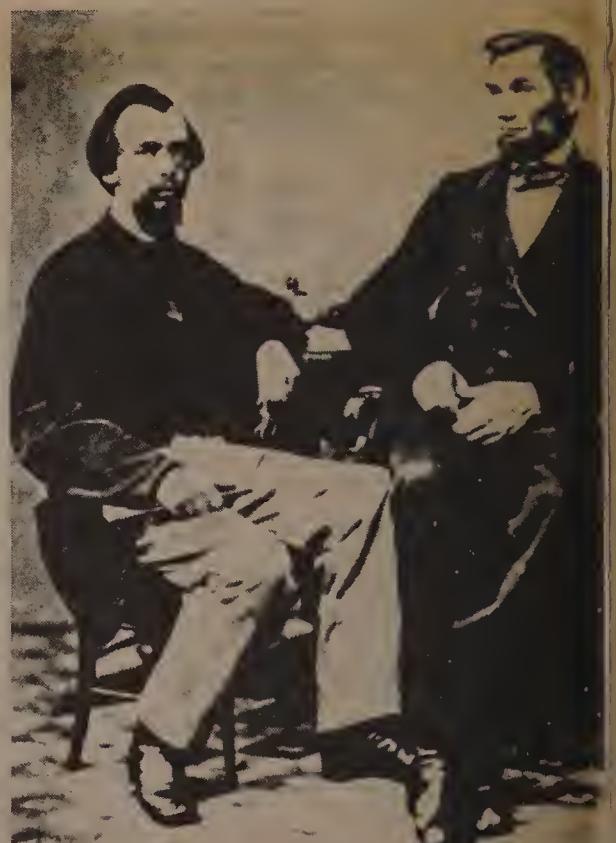
I would add that the anecdote demonstrates Lincoln's repugnance at heterosexual intercourse and castration anxiety.

Lincoln was 31 when he married, an advanced age in frontier Illinois. If they obliterated his homosexuality, biographers had to chink the gap left between puberty and marriage. For example, William Herndon made every effort to amplify Lincoln's heterosexuality. As Lincoln's law partner for nearly 20 years, Herndon noticed that Lincoln never used the word "love" in connection with women. Instead of concluding that Lincoln wasn't much of a woman's man, Herndon completely invented a romance with Ann Rutledge, the supposed single love of his life. (A perfect mate for a homosexual suitor, she was already engaged and she quickly died.) "By his very persistence," Herndon's biographer David Donald concludes, "Herndon gave undue importance to the episode." The Ann Rutledge romance entered legend and has become so widely accepted because it provided such a romantic heterosexual cover for Lincoln. According to one biographer who italicized the point, "Here is where Mr. Lincoln first began to be a man."

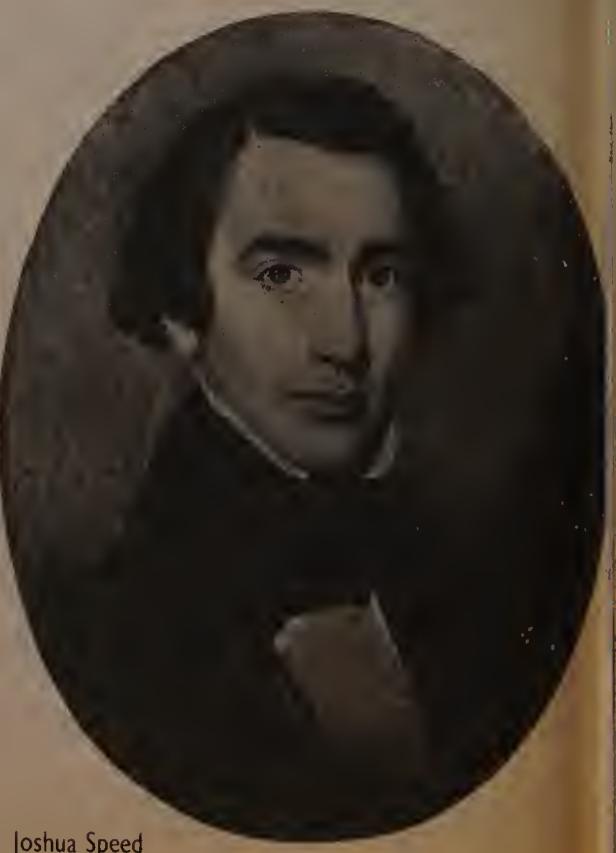
By contrast, the story about Lincoln's visit to the prostitute is seldom told: he didn't have sex because he lacked the needed two dollars. When recounted, this story is usually meant to demonstrate how honest Abe was, but the humor does not disguise the implication that he avoided sex with a woman. One of Lincoln's better documented courtings was with Mary Owens, a woman many believe he proposed to because she was sure to reject him. Owens later claimed Lincoln was "deficient in those little links that make up the chain of a woman's happiness." And Mary Todd's sister stated quite definitively that "Lincoln



The Bucktails, who formed the President's bodyguard in Washington



The President's secretary John Nicolay moves in for a close ph



Joshua Speed

RASA \$5 BILL

THE WAY WITH ABE LINCOLN

was unable to talk to women and was not sufficiently educated in the female line to do so."

Lincoln married Mary Todd in November, 1842, and their marriage still offers room for historians to argue and novelists to imagine. Gore Vidal convincingly suggests that Lincoln had contracted syphilis which he passed on to Mary; three of their four children — Edward (1846-50), Willie (1850-1862), and Tad (1853-1871) — all died prematurely and Mary herself suffered mental disorders. The early deaths of her children brought many nightmares; after the birth of Tad in 1853 she ceased having sexual relations with her husband and they soon maintained separate bedrooms. As a final blow, her surviving son had her put in an insane asylum in 1875.

What is not often discussed is the fact that Mary Todd had several close relations with other women. In her passionate letters to Merce Levering, Mary wrote "Your mate misses you too much from her nest." Theirs were hearts which would always "acknowledge the same kindred ties." After 1861, Mary Todd's closest friend, Elizabeth Keckley, became her dressmaker. Keckley shared Todd's life more closely than Lincoln ever did. Their break only came in 1868, when Keckley published *Behind the Scenes; Thirty Years a Slave and Four Years in the White House*.

Jean H. Baker in her recent biography of the First Lady (1987) can provide only scanty hearsay evidence of Mary Todd Lincoln's heterosexuality: "Mary Lincoln's friend Elizabeth Blair Lee once explained to her husband, Admiral Samuel Lee, 'Mary has her husband's deepest love. This is a matter upon which one woman cannot deceive another.'"

After Joshua Speed, Lincoln himself never formed another intimate relationship with anyone (including Mary Todd), but he did pursue more casual male friendships. Between 1842 and 1861, he spent as much time on the road as at home. While other married circuit lawyers and politicians tried to go home as often as possible, Lincoln preferred sleeping overnight with the unmarried men. Thus he teamed up with Ward Hill Lamon, a husky 20-year-old beauty who went on to become his body guard. Once he slept four or five nights with Lamon at Lamon's house while Mary Todd was in New York City on a shopping trip. Lamon also provided for a beautiful group of Pennsylvania soldiers ("Bucktail Brigade") to guard Lincoln in the summer quarters in 1862. Margaret Leech writes, "He grew to like the Bucktails, especially Company K, with whose captain he became so friendly that he invited him to share his bed on autumn nights when Mrs. Lincoln was away from home." The captain got transferred but Company K continued on duty at the White House.

Lincoln also wrote verse that combined his common man and queer man selves, further demonstrating his anti-respectability side. The "Chronicles of Reuben," an early folk ballad, recount the marriage of Susan and Josiah Crawford's two sons Reuben and Charles, who accidentally get put into the wrong beds on their wedding night. Thus Linden ridiculed the institution of marriage and the family and concluded with a memorable celebration of homosexuality:

Reuben and Charles have married two girls,
But Billy has married a boy.
The girls he had tried on every side,
But none could he get to agree;
All was in vain, he went home again,
And said that he's married to Natty.

Billy and Natty agree very well,
Mamma's well pleased with the match
The egg's laid, but Natty's afraid
The shell's so soft it'll never hatch,
But Betsy said, "You cursed bald head,

You'll never be a suitor for me
Because your low crotch proclaims you a
botch."

Censors subsequently attacked these verses. "Low crotch" means "well hung" and was bowldeezed even before publication as "your ill shape proclaims you an ape." Despite this attempt to placate middle class prudery, Herndon's three-volume *Lincoln* was attacked. Herndon's biographer Donald notes that, "Nearly every reviewer pointed to the 'Chronicles' as uncouth, coarse, and vulgar." A review in the September 14, 1889 *Chicago Evening Journal* declared, "The obscenity of the work is surprising and shocking. Anthony Comstock should give it his attention. It is not fit for family reading. Its salacious narrative and implications... are simply outrageous." The "Chronicles" were omitted from subsequent editions of Herndon's biography.

The immediate Indiana audience liked the poem so well that Billy Grigsby challenged Abe to a duel. Billy was too small to fight Abe so they substituted Lincoln's foster brother, who was not as big as Abe. Abe's substitute didn't whip Billy but didn't exactly lose. To end the battle, Lincoln grabbed Billy and challenged the onlookers: "I'm the big buck of this lick. If any of you want to try it, come on and whet your horns." "Lick" and "horn" like "buck" have multiple meanings — all with sexual echoes. Many horny homosexuals who size men up by hand and shoe size speculate that Lincoln had a very, very large cock. Lincoln was six foot four inches, had big hands, long legs and wore size fourteen shoes.

The feud between the Grigsbys and Lincolns was soon forgotten. In 1844 Natty gladly hopped into bed with "the big buck" of the lick when Abe came visiting Gentryville, Indiana. Grigsby himself recalled,

When we had gone to bed and way in the night a cat commenced mewing and scratching, making a fuss generally. Lincoln got up in the dark and said: 'Kitty, Kitty, Pussy.' The cat knew the voice and manner kind, went to Lincoln. L. rubbed it down, saw the sparkling. L. took up the cat, carried it to the door, and gently rubbed it again and again, saying: 'Kitty, Kitty, etc.,' then gently put it down, closed the doors, commenced telling stories and talking over old times.

Natty was a couple of years younger than Lincoln; both were in their thirties in 1844. Lincoln had insisted that they take a bed together in a friend's house where they should not be disturbed (except by the prowling cat). The sexual innuendos of Grigsby's recollection are hardly latent. The term "pussy" among both heterosexual and homosexual men suggests sex; and "sparkling" suggests "sparking" which is an Americanism meaning "making love." Among Lincoln's favorite stories was one about a young man fucking a cat. In 1860, Lincoln wrote Natty (who was then in Missouri) an affectionate letter asking him to "vote for me if your neighbors will let you. I would advise you not to get into any trouble about it."

Lincoln's sexual imagination is tinged with asshole images. Herndon reported that his stories were "the very vulgarist and nastiest that possibly could be told;" and he "had an evacuation" only once a week and had to take "blue mass pills" for his constipation. Psychohistorian Strozier concludes that "Lincoln's bawdy humor was, in fact, decidedly anal." The hunk Ward Hill Lamon recalled that he had been wrestling before going to court and had split the seat of his pants so that his ass showed. The court house jokers passed a subscription sheet for buying him new pants; Lincoln wrote, "I can contribute nothing to the end in view." For his taste in men Lincoln was clearly an ass rather than a crotch man. Here are some lines from his humorous sketch,

"Ass-Backwards," filled with letter switches: "He said he was riding *bass-ackwards* on a *jass-ack*, through a *patton crotch*, on a pair of *baddle-sags*, stuffed with *binger-gred*, when the animal *steered* at a scump, and the *lirrup-streater* broke, and threw him in the *forner* of the *kence* and broke his *pishing-fole*." The excremental color of ginger bread and the piss/cock echo in "pishing-fole" shouldn't be overlooked. Moreover Lincoln's definiteness with numbers ("four score and seven" or "four years slept together") suggests a certain asshole tightness.

A final evidence of Lincoln's sexual interests appears in his admiration of the good gay poet, Walt Whitman. William Herndon owned a copy of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* which was heatedly discussed among the group of young men who regularly hung around the Lincoln-Herndon office. One of the hangers on was Henry B. Rankin who then formed a life long love for the poetry of Whitman. Rankin later recalled a time (probably in the fall of 1860) when Lincoln took up *Leaves of Grass* and read several passages aloud. "The emphasis he gave to certain passages in *Leaves of Grass* interpreted many meanings and beauties in the text which the rest of us had not discovered." The 1860 edition was the most homoerotic edition of the *Leaves of Grass* and it contained the first publication of the Calamus boy-love poems. Lincoln took the book home and when he brought it back claimed that he "had barely saved it from being purified in fire by the women." According to Rankin, "At [Lincoln's] request, the book was left by Herndon on the office table. Time and again when Lincoln came in, or was leaving, he would pick it up as if to glance at it for only a moment, but instead he would often settle down in a chair and never stop without reading aloud such verses or pages as he fancied."

Lincoln had less time for reading poetry in Washington, D.C., but he knew of Whitman's presence in the capital. Whitman recalled seeing Lincoln some 50 times under "strange and fascinating conditions." The poet liked, admired and "loved" Lincoln's personal secretary, John Hay. "When Hay

was with Lincoln," Whitman recalled, "I used to see a great deal of" the young secretary. In 1876 Hay wrote Whitman about the Centennial edition of *Leaves of Grass*. In 1863 the secretary obtained a railpass from the President for Whitman to travel gratis to New York City in order to vote, to visit his dying brother and to finish work on *Drum Taps*.

In his notebook, Whitman wrote: "31st Oct Called at the Presidents house, on John Hay — saw Mr Lincoln standing, talking with a gentleman, apparently a dear friend. Nov 1st [Sunday] — his face & manner have an expression & are inexpressibly sweet — one hand on his friends shoulder the other holding his hand. I love the President personally." On July 30, 1865 Whitman received a letter from "a Van Rensselaer" who related a story about Lincoln's observing Whitman. The correspondent had accompanied a member of Congress to the White House in January 1864. Sauntering along outside the White House window, Whitman had caught Lincoln's attention. "I spoke up and said, mentioning your name, that you had written *Leaves of Grass*, etc. Mr. Lincoln didn't say anything but took a long look till you were quite gone by. Then he says — (I can't give you his way of saying it but it was quite emphatic and odd) 'Well,' he says 'he looks like a MAN.' " The "man" reference is quite authentically Lincoln and Whitman and this odd way of saying "man" was another way of saying "queer" in a complimentary way. Whitman spelled out the "a man who is a man" concept in describing lawyer and prison reformer Richard Vaux,

I have always looked upon Vaux as outre: a dare-devil fellow facing current customs... I can well imagine that a man born in Philadelphia — a man who is a man — looking about upon these restrictions — hating them with his whole soul — rebelling — should break bonds, dress as he pleases... more at his will, say his say, defiant to the last word of tyranny.

Whitman's being Lincoln's kind of man got him in trouble with the Methodist Secretary of Interior James Harlan, who had taken charge of the department in 1865. Harlan searched Whitman's desk during the evening hours and found a copy of *Leaves*

Continued on page 12



Civil war soldiers exchanged and sent home to friends small cards (*cartes de visite*) that had their photographs printed on them. These cards were often love tokens. Gay poet Walt Whitman's favorite card included a picture of an older man hugging his boy — George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In a letter to his soldier-friend Alfred E. Pratt, August 29, 1865, the poet wrote: "Dear son, I did not finish my letter because I have not been able to get the picture of Lincoln and Washington — but I succeeded in getting one this morning — I send it as a little present to my dear boy, and I hope it will please him, for there is something about it that is both pleasing and solemn to me, though but a small picture."

Daryl Moore, former NAPWA co-chair, dies

By Dennis Vercher

DALLAS — Daryl S. Moore, 27, a former board member and co-chair of the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) until his retirement this summer, died at his home on Aug. 10.

Moore was co-founder and president of the PWA Coalition of Dallas, Inc., and was instrumental in establishing the Coalition-owned and operated residential facility for persons living with AIDS. Named "A Place For Us," the 26-unit facility has remained filled to capacity since it opened last spring. The house has become an important symbol, both locally and nationally, showing PWAs as a vital element in the fight against the dread disease.

Moore was appointed to the NAPWA board of directors in March 1987, and in November assumed duties as co-chair. In failing health, he resigned from the NAPWA board in early summer 1988.

NAPWA's executive director, Stephen Beck, remembered Moore as a dedicated worker who facilitated thoughtful and workable compromises.

"His contribution, besides what he did in Dallas, added greatly to the credibility of NAPWA," Beck stated. "He was very much a moderating force on the board.... He ensured that NAPWA would take the necessary steps to build the base of the organization so that it could continue indefinitely. For the longevity of NAPWA, I think Daryl Moore contributed as much as anyone."

Moore is survived by his parents, Robert and Earline Moore, and three grandparents. A memorial service was held in Dallas on Aug. 13, followed by a private family service in his native Muscle Shoals, Alabama. □

CDC Conference

Continued from page 3

America." The resolution called for the government to seek permission from tribal councils before conducting studies of HIV prevalence. It also encouraged increased availability of voluntary HIV antibody testing with pre- and post-test counseling.

An issue raised by both Latino and Asian-American/Pacific Islander caucuses was mandatory testing for individuals applying for visas or residency status in the U.S. One official told *GCN* the story of two Chilean citizens who lived legally in the U.S. for several years before being advised to return to Chile to apply for new visas because they allowed their current visas to expire. In Chile they tested positive for HIV antibodies and were prevented by U.S. immigration officials from returning. Critics assert that such situations are unjust, particularly in circumstances where persons are infected while living in the U.S. and are forced to return to places where services for people with HIV-infection are minimal or nonexistent.

Audrey Morton of the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Civil Rights declined to answer any questions regarding immigration issues because "she did not have enough information," but offered to reply by mail. Fernando Chang-Muy, legal counsel at the liaison office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Washington, D.C., told *GCN* that under certain limited circumstances, refugees applying for admission to the U.S. or immigrants already residing here can apply for waivers and be admitted or allowed to remain in spite of HIV antibody status. He suggested that such persons already residing in the U.S. be tested here as opposed to returning to their country of origin.

A resolution presented by Jose Fidelino of ACT UP/New York denounced the conference's exclusive "prevention" focus.

"The many persons of color already infected with HIV are rendered invisible or seen only as vectors of transmission to the uninfected, then left for dead," he said. Fidelino called for a dual focus on prevention and treatment with an emphasis on access to health care, clinical trials and social services. He pointed out that urging people to be tested makes no sense unless these issues are adequately addressed. "Knowledge of antibody status," he said, "does not elicit behavioral change but creates new levels of discrimination and oppression." The use of placebos in drug testing was also criticized by activists who especially cited pediatric trials in which some children receive intravenous immunoglobulin — a substance thought to help children with AIDS — and others receive albumin as a placebo. According to the activists, albumin may actually weaken immune response in some pediatric AIDS cases. Suggestions for alternatives to placebo trials were comparisons with historical data, comparison with children receiving another experimental treatment or comparison with well cared for children who receive no treatment.

Resolutions from a number of caucuses called for CDC and state health departments to provide more specific data in their statistical reports such as breakdowns by subgroups within an ethnic group, specific information about transmission categories, and more information about women and children. Davis Ja of the Asian-American Addiction Recovery Services in San Francisco said that in San Francisco, 42 percent of cases of AIDS among Asians are Filipino, 22.8 percent are Japanese, 19.6 percent are Chinese and 5.4 percent are Vietnamese. He said that this information is very difficult to obtain but crucial in efforts to target educational programs.

Other caucus resolutions demanded: inclusion of specific communities' needs in government reports, such as that of the Presidential AIDS Commission; allocation of funds to programs on the basis of HIV-infection rates in groups they serve rather than on the number of CDC-defined AIDS cases in these groups; establishment of offices within the CDC to respond to caucus concerns, staffed by people of particular af-

fected groups — including PWAs; work to eradicate all obstructions to AIDS education, such as racism, homophobia, sexism and "addictophobia"; and affirmative action policies with the prevalence of HIV-infection in specific ethnic groups to insure effective participation of specific ethnic groups disproportionately affected by AIDS in decision-making bodies in both the CDC and CDC-funded programs. □

Caucus

Continued from page 3

also deem offensive all AIDS literature that teaches and promotes sexual practices and behaviors which offend the cultural integrity of the Black race, and go against the teachings of our church and our religious beliefs," it said. The statement also implied that Black youth only become aware of certain sexual behaviors because of their mention in AIDS brochures. The caucus called for full congressional inquiry into a green monkey experiment deemed to be responsible for the outbreak of the AIDS epidemic instead of blaming the epidemic on "the existence of Black people." It also sharply criticized government minority AIDS prevention programs for their inadequate services, cultural insensitivity, ineffective mechanisms for providing funding to community-based organizations, and other concerns.

Upon contacting Ernest Andrews of the recently-named National AIDS Black Caucus, it was learned that these positions had not been adopted by the National AIDS Black Caucus and that Mosley had been instructed not to refer to his group as such. The National AIDS Black Caucus also convened at the CDC conference and drafted resolutions which addressed lesbian and gay issues, including recognizing the support and activities of Black lesbians and gay men in addressing the AIDS crisis before it was a popular thing to do. □

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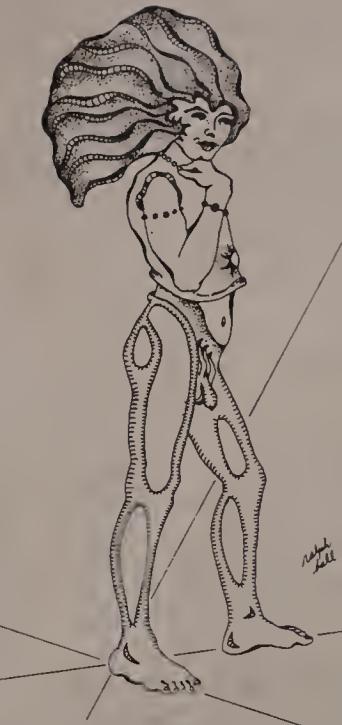
**Ralph. D.
Hall, Jr.,
1945-1988**

By Bob Storm

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. — Ralph Hall died of AIDS on Aug. 26, 1988, at the Hollywood Florida Medical Center Hospice. He is survived by his life partner Bob Storm and his friends.

Born and raised in New York State, he spent 20 years in New York City as a movement activist before leaving for Florida. Ralph participated in the Stonewall Riots and later helped form the Gay Liberation Front. Also during his time in New York he started his journey as a graphic artist and publisher of movement magazines by his collective — known as the Stonewall Family. Chronologically, the publications include: *Faggots on Faggotry*, *GayPost*, *Ain't It da Truth*, and most recently *Tacky Tymes*.

Long a champion of the poor, Ralph never waivered from his commitment to including in the body politic the rights and concerns of gay prisoners, mental patients, Blacks and gay youth. In the mid-1970s he helped organize the Gaywalk for Freedom, an alternative Pride march for these marginalized gay people in New York.

In 1978 he was co-winner of a *Village Voice* Obie award for his theatrical set design for Donald L. Brook's production ofGraphic by Ralph Hall to appear in a forthcoming issue of *Fag Rag*Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. His graphics graced the pages of *Fag Rag*, *RFD*, *The Body Politic*, *GCN*, and numerous poetry chapbooks.

In his final days Ralph left manuscripts to be published that document his involvement with holistic herbalist treatment and aromatherapy for the control of AIDS symptoms. □

DC

Continued from page 3

clear the inadequacies of this country's health care system."

At the ACT NOW national organizing conference held in San Francisco in May of this year, a number of activists pushed for CD at HHS headquarters, arguing that the department is more "symbolic" of a failed health care system. According to Hyde, a number of activists were concerned that the focus on the FDA and treatment issues is too narrow. As a result, ACT NOW included several comprehensive demands in the

literature for the October events:

- The federal government must fund a national health care system controlled by local communities.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) must eliminate all arbitrary and life threatening distinctions between AIDS, ARC and HIV infections.
- All agencies must include representatives from affected communities at all levels of decision making for HIV-related research, treatment, education and funding

Continued on page 12

Washington events**Thursday, Oct. 6**"Til That Last Breath," **Women with AIDS** photo exhibit; Opening reception at The Collector Art Gallery, 1630 U St. NW, 8pm. Sponsor: NGLTF 202/332-6483**Friday, Oct. 7**

Quilt setup, volunteer training; sponsor: The NAMES Project, 1-800-USA-NAME

National Lobby Day training for lesbian and gay rights; Rayburn House office building, 10-noon. Sponsor: NGLTF

Community concert, Lisner Auditorium at George Washington University; featuring Cathy Fink, Patti Larkin and the D.C. Gay and Lesbian Chorus; 7 and 10pm. Tickets: 1-800-448-9009

1988 International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival begins and continues through Sunday with a variety of films. Sponsors: Frameline and NGLTF; info: 202/332-6483.

Saturday, Oct. 8

Quilt unfolded, reading of names; 7am-6pm



National AIDS Teach-in; Hine Jr. High School; 8th and Penn Ave SE, 11am-7pm. Sponsor: ACT NOW 202/234-8801

Candlelight March from Ellipse to Lincoln Memorial; 7pm

Sunday, Oct. 9

Quilt unfolding, 8am

National conference of AIDS activists; Hine Jr. High School; 8th and Penn Ave SE, 11am-7:30pm. Sponsor: ACT NOW, 202/234-8801

Training for FDA CD action; All Soul's Church; 16th and Harvard NW, 9am-3pm. Sponsor: ACT NOW, 202/234-8801

JEB's multi-image slide presentation; For Love and For Life, Lisner Auditorium; info: 202/332-3522.

Monday, Oct. 10

National Parents Conference on AIDS; Arlington, Va. Sheraton; sponsor: National Parents Council on AIDS, 415/863-5511

National Lobby Day, 10am-12pm (see Friday listing)

Rally at Department of Health and Human Services, 4pm. Sponsor: ACT NOW 202/332-6483

Benefit Birthday Party for Cleve Jones; The Collector Art Gallery, 6-9pm. Sponsor: NGLTF 202/332-6483

Tuesday, Oct. 11

National Coming Out Day; sponsor: National Gay Rights Advocates 213/650-6200

Civil Disobedience at FDA; Rockville, Maryland, 7am. Sponsor: ACT NOW 202/332-8801

Airline reservations: 1-800-521-4041 (account #8664N); Hotel reservations: 1-800-554-2220 (Booking reservations through this account benefits the NAMES Project.)

U.S. Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases

as of August 29, 1988

Transmission Categories	White			Asian/Pacific Islander			American Indian/Alaskan Native		Male	Female	Total
	Number (%)	Black	Hispanic	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)	Number (%)			
Homosexual/Bisexual Male	32,546 (78)	6,910 (38)	4,506 (44)	314 (76)	37 (54)	44,402 (68)			44,402 (63)		
Intravenous (IV) Drug Abuser	2,669 (6)	6,937 (38)	3,940 (38)	15 (4)	11 (16)	10,579 (16)	3,029 (52)		13,608 (19)		
Homosexual Male and IV Drug Abuser	3,129 (8)	1,289 (7)	725 (7)	7 (2)	11 (16)	5,168 (8)			5,168 (7)		
Hemophilia/Coagulation Disorder	572 (1)	42 (0)	52 (1)	8 (2)	3 (4)	659 (1)	21 (0)		680 (1)		
Heterosexual cases	558 (1)	1,976 (11)	429 (4)	13 (3)	2 (3)	1,281 (2)	1,700 (29)		2,981 (4)		
Transfusion, Blood/Components	1,320 (3)	277 (2)	148 (1)	36 (9)	2 (3)	1,147 (2)	642 (11)		1,789 (3)		
Undetermined	859 (2)	869 (5)	486 (5)	22 (5)	3 (4)	1,806 (3)	448 (8)		2,254 (3)		
Subtotal											
[% of all cases]	41,653 (59)	18,300 (26)	10,286 (15)	415 (1)	69 (0)	65,042 (92)	5,840 (8)	70,882 (100)			

Total number of AIDS-related deaths: 40,593

The most timely and comprehensive statistical data about AIDS come from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which issue weekly reports. But this information, though seemingly "objective" numerical data, is both limited and biased.

The CDC, based in Atlanta, compile national statistics on AIDS (comparable data is not published for AIDS Related Complex — ARC) based on reports from state health departments and physicians. Standard diagnostic forms are completed by physicians when they diagnose a case and these are sent to state departments of health or the CDC.

The CDC numbers do not account for all people who have AIDS in the U.S. Not all physicians are adequately trained to make an AIDS diagnosis, so many people who have AIDS continue to be misdiagnosed. In addition, some doctors who are motivated to protect their patients from the stigma attached to AIDS (sometimes by patients themselves, or their families) may be reluctant to report an AIDS diagnosis. In addition, many people who lack access to adequate medical care — poor people, people of color, IV drug users, prisoners, teenagers and women — will not come in contact with the people who do the reporting and will be misrepresented in the statistics. Prisons, for example, are notorious for their failure to recognize and report cases of AIDS.

It is also important to examine how the presentation of the CDC numbers is distorted. The categories listed in the CDC tabel inaccurately represent data about transmission. By presenting risk groups (primarily gay/bisexual men and IV drug users) under "transmission categories," the data tells us little about which high-risk activities are associated with the spread of AIDS and perpetuates the myth that certain kinds of people are inherently carriers of the disease.

For a more detailed analysis of the CDC's statistics, see the centerspread in **GCN**, Vol. 15, No. 40. We welcome your input about the CDC numbers we print and suggestions about statistical information you would like to see. □

DC

Continued from page 11

programs, e.g., AIDS education programs for women must be designed by women.

• The federal government must end all discriminatory practices and policies against people with AIDS, ARC and HIV-infection, their partners and their children. Congress must repeal all laws that contribute to the spread of AIDS through discrimination against those perceived to be at risk, such as the Helms Amendment [which banned federal funding for explicit safer sex education materials] and laws prohibiting sodomy and prostitution.

ACT NOW has already made some headway in its struggle to make life-saving drugs more readily available, said Hyde. The FDA has begun negotiations with ACT NOW and has met several of its demands.

ACT NOW is also sponsoring two "educational" events for AIDS activists. On Saturday, Oct. 8, hundreds of ACT NOW members will meet to discuss strategy for building a national AIDS movement at a day long teach-in. Discussions will include: coalition building, inclusiveness, AIDS treatment issues and AIDS in prisons. On Sunday, Oct. 9 ACT NOW will convene to develop national strategies, plan actions and coordinate local ACT UP groups. Also planned for Monday are CD training and a meeting to discuss support systems for those who are arrested. Gregg Bordowitz, a New York member of the ACT NOW steering committee, said "The fundamental purpose of the events is to build face to face relationships between activists and to give shape to a growing national movement."

□ filed from Boston

Queer Abe

Continued from centerspread

of *Grass*, which he read and found "matter so outrageous, that he had determined to discharge the author." Luckily for Whitman, Lincoln had appointed Joshua Speed's brother James to the Attorney General's office. Lincoln's cabinet had questioned the Speed appointment, but Lincoln declared he knew he could trust the man since he'd slept with his brother for four years. Speed hired Whitman into the Attorney General's office the day after he

was fired from Interior. Speed himself soon left office, but he and Whitman continued to correspond. Speed's own successor Stanberry, for Christmas 1866, gave the poet a knife which had belonged to Abraham Lincoln. Reporting on the incident, the *Brooklyn Eagle* had declared that Whitman "now occupies a desk in the Attorney General's office, where we suppose they are not so particular about morals."

[Special thanks to Harry Hay for suggesting this topic. References for this article can be found in Charley Shively's *Drum Beats: Walt Whitman's Civil War Boy Lovers*, to be published by Gay Sunshine Press, December, 1988.] □

Les/gay press

Continued from page 7

of earlier health movements.

At last year's Lesbian and Gay Health Conference, one of the best plenary sessions was on lessons from the women's health movement. Very few men attended, however, and the critical lessons about the hazards of working with the government were lost to those AIDS activists. The response to AIDS as an illness must be placed in the context of an historic struggle for lesbian and gay health, health care for people of color and women, and a struggle against discrimination based on medical definitions — because AIDS activism and analysis require the lessons already learned to be available immediately.

Early gay liberation was a product of learning about and fighting psychological definitions of homosexuality. A key feature of current analysis and liberation must be understanding medical science and the power structures it supports. □

Correction

The correct spelling of the name of a character referred to in John Kiper's review of Paul Monette's book *Borrowed Time*, **GCN**, Sept. 4-10, 1988, is Sheldon Andelson. Our apologies to John and to our readers.

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The only nationwide listing of socially conscious job opportunities — organizing, women's issues, health care, peace/justice, more. \$12/year. C.I. Box G, 1516 P Street, Washington, DC 20005. (Ex)

INSTRUCTOR

A position in Human Services that pays! instructor, Behavioral MR clients, Day Program has immediate openings. Salary \$18,000 plus benefits. Experience preferred, but will train. O.T. available. Send resume to: Mr. Terry Dembek, B.W.A.C., 45 Calvary St., Waltham, MA 02154, or call (617) 893-0122 for appointment. A/A, EOE, M/F/H.

Visiting Nursing Association of Cambridge AIDS Home Care Program

On-call Home Health Aides needed to care for persons with AIDS in their homes in the Cambridge area. Flexible hours. Competitive salaries. Certification program provided if needed. Call Dorothy Martin at 547-2620 for information.

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186 Alewife Brook Pkwy.
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Full time position in small, active, limited license lab in FCHC clinic.

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Full- or part-time position operating small switchboard & assisting with light administrative tasks.

Fenway Community Health Center is an equal opportunity employer. People of color are encouraged to apply.

Resumes to:

Personnel
Fenway Community Health Center
16 Haviland Street
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ROOMMATE WANTED

LF and two cats seek housemates for spacious JP apt. Vegetarian cooperative home with fireplace, w/d, porch, yard. Non-smoking. \$400/month, heated, rent-controlled. Anne 522-6561. (6)

I STILL NEED A HOME!

Gay man (26) seeking home by Oct. 1 in Boston/Cambridge area. I school and work in Cambridge and would like to move in with others committed to mostly independent, friendly, cohabitation. \$300 including, tops. Kenji, 868-3392. (11)

J.P. APARTMENT

1LF seeks 21Fs for 3BR apt. in Victorian house near J.P. Licks. Wood floors, porch, yard and W/D in basement. \$415/month includes heat. Available Oct. 1st (or sooner). Call Julie at 536-9428 (H) or 725-3526 (W). (11)

JAMAICA PLAIN

21Fs seek 2 more for 2nd and 3rd floor apt in JP house. Semi-coop, veggie, spacious, wood stove, close to Orange and Green Lines. Call Suzie or Peggy 522-9351. (10)

BiF 31 and 1 yr old son seek 1 to share house in Medford. Washer, yard, parking. Near Orange Line T. No pets, cigs, drugs. \$300 plus. Call 391-3041. (11)

Jamaica Plain: 1F 24, two cats, seek woman for large sunny apartment. Porch, garden, 4 blocks F Hills subway, half block South Street. No smoking. \$300plus. \$24-9857. (10)

1F seeks same to share large, sunnym solar-heated 2 bedroom in Roslindale. Yard, wash mach. and more. 2 in front of Forest Hills T, parking. \$330 mo. Avail. 9/15. Call 327-0317. (10)

AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

Gay male seeks two humans, gay or lesbian, couple or semi-detached, to share sunny, live-room Beacon Hill apt. Split of space and \$850/mo rent negotiable. Includes heat, hot w., both plentiful. Please call John 720-1996. (10)

JAMAICA PLAIN

Room without a closet for someone out of the closet. Small warm room in J.P. \$210 including heat. Avail. Sept. 15th. Call Tansin or Laura at 524-1874. (10)

1F 27-35 wanted to share spacious house in Davis Square. Warm, independent household. Two porches, small yard, near T. No smoking. Have cats. Rent \$275 including heat. Available October 1, possibly sooner. Call 776-4693. (10)

Room available in big, clean apt. full of art & oddities. Across from Davis T. Share w/11F artist/smoker. No granola-heads, pets, alcoholics. \$300 plus utilities plus security deposit. 625-2159, 491-2996. (10)

2 LF seek 3 female housemates for multiracial household in J.P. Beautiful house, close to T. 250 plus utilities. Avail. 9/1. Jerri or Jan 524-1303. (10)

Natick — Two gay females seek same to share large private home. Non-smoker, no pets. Conv. location. 350 plus utilities. Call 651-8240. (10)

3 LF's seek another for sunny spacious semi-coop home near Porter Square, Cambridge. We have 2 cats, no more pets, min. drugs or alcohol. Avail. Sept. 1, 250 plus call 491-4005. (10)

1L & 1BiF seek M or F for 3 bdrm JP apt. Non-smoker, no drugs, min. alcohol. Mature, responsible indiv. for independent household. Must like pets but no more please. Share housework. Off-St. parking, near pond. \$270 plus. Call Nancy at 522-2118 or Wendall (days) at 661-3567. (9)

APARTMENTS

2 BEDROOM FIRST FLOOR EAST BOSTON OWNER OCCUPIED

All new cabinet kitchen frig stove washer dryer new ceramic tile bath, many extras, carpeted, near T, parks. Plenty of parking available. Before 10/1/88 no pets. \$700 per month unheated. Security, no large pets. Call 569-6559. (10)

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Charming single family 3-BR, house, sunny, quiet street near Harvard Sq. Hardwd floors. (508) 349-7137 \$2000 mo./negotiable. (10)

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1986 FORD ESCORT

White, 2-door sedan, standard transmission, no extras to speak of, rust-proofed. 37,000 miles, \$4,000. (617) 846-9117. (11)

VACATIONS

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CONDADO BEACH P.R.

New condos on the beach for long weekends, short term rentals. A.C. cable, roofdeck, pool, reasonable rates. Some for sale. Call John (617) 899-0388. (19)

P-TOWN TIMESHARE

1 BR floating week Eastwood at Provincetown sleeps 4. Exchange internationally. Must sell. Call or write (413) 628-4691, S. Waldman, P.O. Box 409, Hadley, MA 01035. (13)

WHITE MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Enjoy spectacular fall foliage at our 100 acre mountain resort. With 19 charming guest rooms, pool, hot tub, fireplace common rooms and miles of trails, we're just what you need! Ask about our holiday plans too! The HIGHLANDS INN, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace and Judi, Innkeepers. (17)

PUBLICATIONS

INFORM YOURSELF ABOUT HERPES

with booklet from Santa Cruz Women's Health Center. Discusses symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, psychosocial issues. \$6. To SCWHC, 250 Locust St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Still available Lesbian Health Matters: \$6. (16.10.14.18)

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

monthly review of current feminist writing. Since 1983. Our readers span the U.S., Canada, and abroad. Subscriptions: \$15/U.S., \$18/Canada, \$25/institutions. Free sample issue on request. THE WOMEN'S REVIEW, Wellesley Women's Research Center, Wellesley, MA 02181. (ex)

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out!, NCBLG, 19641 W. Seven Mile, Detroit MI 48219. (ex)

PUBLICATIONS

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE. Write Guardian, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY 10011. (ex)

off our backs

Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample-\$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

A journal of woman-to-woman s/m. Fantasy, analysis, erotic art and much more. Sub: \$13/four issues. Single issues \$4. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

BAD ATTITUDE

A lesbian sex magazine. Irreverent and Hot! \$10 for one year's subscription (3 issues). B.A. Inc., P.O. Box 110, Cambridge, MA 02139. (16.33)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 421916, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

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Legal help NEEDED!

My conviction is beatable. At the time of my arrest I was a well-established professional woman with no record or activities. Yet it was because of my sexuality that the Houston police and later the Houston papers came after me. The prosecutor didn't bother to hide his bigotry either. I've become a 'legal eagle' in here but the 5th circuit won't look case filed 'pro se'. I need a lawyer to help me. Please write Ana Lucia GELABERT, 384484, Rt 4 Box 800, Gatesville TX 76528.

I'd like to have some penpals to write. I'm 23, a Sioux-French Indian and would like to correspond with someone who also enjoys sports and drawing, preferably other women. (I'm not allowed to write other prisoners.) Thank you, Michelle SAUL, Box 700, Mitchellville IA 50169

31 yr old black dike looking for a penpal! It doesn't matter if the woman is from 35 to 50 yrs old. I want a sincere settled woman to write to. I like music, write poetry (but haven't got any published yet) and would like a picture too if possible. Frances HASKINS, 4756, Box 180, Muncy PA 17756.

GCN, thanks for helping us Prisoners to reach out to the out side so the out side could reach in to us! I'm 34, Masculine looking, looking for an older special lady. Where are you? Be a true friend. Ruby JOHNSON, F 02516, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.



I need some help. I had to stop writing my friend because he's in prison and they won't allow correspondence between inmates of two prisons. So if you could, I'd like you to find me another penpal. Well there isn't much else to say. So I'm going to sign off. Thank you for your help and concern. Clarence BROWN, Y-3542, Box 200, Camp Hill PA 17011.

I am a child of God and want to be a Christian but need a little advice. I am a Frenchman, 27 yr of age, 28 in the waist, weight 164 pound, bench-press 300 pound, curl 180, dark brown eyes and cold black curly hair bright skin just looking for some Christian or nice friend that will write me a letter. Thank you, Murphy LEVINE, 457941, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

I am in Solitary Confinement and would like to extend my thoughts beyond these walls. A letter would be welcome. Phillip BYERS, 77A 1830, Box B, Dannemora NY 12929

Interested in writing someone who is new to the gay scene. I have never had a gay experience. I am quiet and believe in for real people. Slim and extremely hung. Justin BLACK, Y-9831, Drawer K, Dallas PA 18612.

Please send me my own copy of your spectacular newspaper. It's especially lonely in here without correspondence or reading material, and homophobic officials just make it worse. I was wondering if you could put an ad in for me. I enjoy writing poems, sunsets, walking with that special person and enjoying life to its fullest. Dale MEADOR, C-57959 (7C-201-L), Box 1902-B, Tehachapi CA 93561.

GBM, very possessive and very tall, seeking open, but honest friendship and possibly more. I'm very outgoing and enjoy people of all creeds and places. Michael MCKINNEY, 02596-000, Box 1000, Milan MI 48160

Currently in 23-hr-lock-down isolation, with a great deal of time for reading and broadening my scope. I enjoy your paper very much. Keep up the good work that you are doing. Anyone who is sincere I would like to hear from you. My interests are reading, writing, poetry, music; very sensuous. David Lee ELLIS, 108712, Gator 1-R-6, Angola LA 70712.

If you are fun-loving and open minded and looking for someone that is the same. Here I am! A loveable personality (I can't write to prisoners.) Homer BROOKS, 051094, PO Box 1100 (1591), Avon Park FL 33825.

Age 40, enjoy sports, cooking, one on one relationship, honest and trustworthy relationship. Will answer all. Harry BRONDUS, 174-730, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.



calendar

25 Sunday □ Join local authors Diane Raymond and Warren Blumenfeld at a book-signing party to celebrate publication of **Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life** — and support the Gay and Lesbian Speaker's Bureau at the same time. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard, 2-5pm.

Please note: Calendar listings must be received by the Monday before the week of the event. Photos with listings are encouraged.

17 Saturday

Boston □ **Living With AIDS Theatre Project** presents a workshop every Saturday to collect the experiences and stories of those connected in any way with the AIDS crisis. No performance experience necessary. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 10:30am.

Boston □ AIDS Action Committee presents the **Gotham Ball**, all proceeds to benefit the Committee. Cyclorama, 539 Tremont St. 9pm-2am. \$12 in advance, \$15 at door.

Cambridge □ **Waking Up, A Lesson in Love**, directed by Greta Schiller and produced by Linda Farin and Lindsey Lane. **GCN** Lesbian Erotic Video Benefit. Paine Hall, Harvard Univ. 7pm. \$5. Info: 426-4469. Women only.

Boston □ **Prime Timers** monthly meeting. An organization for older gay males. Guest speaker: David Sondras. Refreshments, socializing. Visitors welcome. Lindemann Health Center, 25 Staniford St. 2-4pm. \$1. Info: Box 352, Reading, MA 01867.

Boston □ Boston Area Women's Self-Defense Collective offers **Women's Self-Defense Classes** for women of all ages and abilities. Meets Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the South End. Info: 574-9433.

Jamaica Plain □ South East Gay and Lesbian **Contra & Square Dances**. All dances taught. Smoke-, drug-, and alcohol-free. First Church, corner Eliot and Centre Sts. 8-11pm. \$5. Info: 401/431-0822.

Lovell, ME □ Gay Men's Social Association **canoe trip on the Saco**. Leaving 9am from the canal bridge off Rt. 5 between No. Fryeburg and Lovell. Barbeque party to follow. Info: Paul or Alan, 603/367-8304.

Cambridge □ **Fred Small** celebrates his new album, "I Will Stand Fast." Passim, 47 Palmer St. 8:30pm. Info: 492-7679.

Watertown □ Non-violent **self-defense training**. Enrollment limited. 9am-3pm. \$60. Info: Anne 926-3600.

Jamaica Plain □ Nicole Hollander Fan Club **rummage sale**. Proceeds to benefit Centro Presente and Co-madres. Corner of Centre St. and Spring Park Ave. 10am-4pm.

Chelsea □ **Concert for Peace and Independence in Central America**. Sponsored by the Honduran Francisco Morazan Committee. Grand debut of Honduran Folk Dance Group, and South American music with group **Fortaleza**. Chelsea High School, 8 Clark Ave. 7pm. \$5 in advance, \$6 at door. Info: 492-8699.

Boston □ **U-Mass. Amherst Gay/ Lesbian/Bisexual Alumni Picnic**. Meet at the Swan Boats, Boston Public Gardens, at noon. Bring own brunch. All alumni welcome. Rain date, Sept. 18. More info: 783-0734.

Boston □ **Canoeing** on the Saco River near Fryeburg, Maine with the Chiltern Mountain Club. Bring your own canoe. Info: Paul or Alan, (603) 367-8304.

18 Sunday

Somerville □ Somerville/Medford/Arlington **Lesbian Potluck**. 6pm. Info: 625-6364.

Boston □ **Metro Healing** presents **ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Sunday. Metropolitan Health Club aerobics room, 209 Columbus Ave. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors** monthly potluck get-together. Last outdoor potluck of the season. Newcomers welcome. Bring a dish to share and a non-alcoholic beverage. Meet at the Jamaica Pond Outdoor Theater entrance across from Moraine St. 3-6pm. Info: 522-3894.

Worcester □ **Worcester County Gay and Lesbian Alliance** general meeting. All are welcome. 6:30pm. For info and location: 508/753-0417.

Boston □ **Downtown Lesbian Neighborhood Group** meets for afternoon tea. All lesbians in the Back Bay, South End, and downtown Boston invited. 2pm. Info: Joan 266-5169, Karen 482-7830.

Boston □ **Celebrate Dignity Boston's** special liturgy to mark the beginning of their worship at St. John's, Bowdoin St., following a Rite of Dismissal at the Arlington St. Church, Dignity's former place of worship. Rite of Dismissal at 4:30pm, procession to St. John's, where mass will begin at 5:30pm. Info: 536-6518.

Boston □ **MCC-Boston Women's Night Out** after worship, 7pm. 131 Cambridge St. Info: 523-7664.

Boston □ **Boston's Other Voice** presents a live call-in. With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

19 Monday

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "Long-distance Relationships." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston □ **Women's Rugby Club** fall practice every Monday and Wednesday, 6-8pm. No experience necessary. Info: Mel S36-4943, message 932-S401.

Newton Centre □ **CONTACT Help Line** training begins. Info: 244-4353.

20 Tuesday

Cambridge □ **Metropolitan Community Church** sponsors **Women and the Bible**, a discussion for women. 720 Massachusetts Ave., Central Sq. 7pm. Info: 523-7664.

Boston □ **New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans** membership meeting, 84 Gainsborough St., Apt. 005-W. 8pm. Info: 723-8127.

Providence, RI □ **ACT-UP Rhode Island** has meetings open to the public every Tuesday. Rocket, 73 Richmond St. 7pm. ACT-UP RI, PO Box 3156, Wayland Square Station, Providence, RI 02906. Info: Bill 617/782-9063.

Cambridge □ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

21 Wednesday

Brookline □ **Join Am Tikva** for Yom Kippur Concluding Services, followed by a dairy-veggie "Break the Fast" pot-luck supper. Please bring something to share. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 6pm. Info: 782-8894.



Cambridge □ **"Say It, Sister!"** discussion of "Coping with the Death of a Partner." A counselor, lawyer, and survivor explore support systems, legal pitfalls, and family conflicts. Host: Jennifer Walters. WMBR, 88.1FM. 7-8pm.

Cambridge □ **MASS ACT OUT** weekly meeting. M.I.T., Building 66, Rm. 126. 7:30pm. Info: 661-7737.

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Al-Anon** with childcare. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

22 Thursday

Boston □ **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading starts at 5pm. Paste-up after 7pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Boston □ Elena Poniatowska, Rita Eder, and Tino Villanueva speak in a symposium on "Memory and Identity: Some Notes on Cultural History." Part of **Latinoamerica Despierta: Art and Identity in Latin America Today**. Massachusetts College of Art, 625 Huntington Ave. 6:30pm. Free. Info: 232-1555 x484.

Boston □ **Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau** training session, required of all new speakers. New minority speakers especially encouraged to attend. UMass/Boston, Park Square, 100 Arlington St. Registration at 10am, training from 10:30am-4:30pm. Bring bag lunch. Info: 354-0133.

23 Friday

Boston □ **GCN mailing**. Come help stuff the paper and meet new friends. 5pm to 10pm. 62 Berkeley St., near Arlington & Back Bay T-stops. Info: GCN, 426-4469.

Boston □ **Ongoing healing group** for PWAs and all those wishing to be of support. Meets every Friday. Santa Fe Hair Salon, S28 Tremont St. 7:30-9:30pm. Info: Brian 267-1154, Joseph 357-6926.

Worcester □ **AIDS Project** — Worcester support group meets every Friday night for HIV positive, PWA's, PWARC's, lovers, friends, and the worried well. Open to all lesbians and gay men regardless of HIV status. 51 Jackson St. 7-9pm. Info: Dana, 508/755-3773.

Cambridge □ **Women's Coffeehouse** presents Esther Heggie in a reading of erotic poetry from her new book, "Wolf Lights." Bring 30 copies of one page of your own erotic poetry, prose, or art to create a book for each to take home. The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Cambridge □ **The Catholic Coalition for Gay Civil Rights** presents a seminar on "Homophobia in Church and Society" to promote education and discussion among clergy, pastoral ministers, educators, counselors, teachers, parents, youth, and youth ministers of all denominations. Led by Jeannine Gramick, SSND and Rev. Robert Nugent. First Congregational Church, 11 Garden St. 8:45am-3:30pm. \$25/advance, \$30/door. Other sessions: Sept. 26 in Nashua, N.H., Sept. 27 in Rutland, VT, Sept. 29 in Massena, NY, and Oct. 1 in West Hartford, CT. Info: (718) 629-2927.

24 Saturday

Middle Barrett Mtn., NH □ **Chiltern Mountain Club** day hike. 6.5 miles up mountain for views of Mount Monadnock. Info: 617/469-9841.

Townsend □ **Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society's** monthly meeting. 1pm. Info: PO Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117.

Boston □ Boston Bisexual Women's Network and Boston Bisexual Men's Network monthly **Dim Sum Brunch**. Meet under the arch in Chinatown at 10:45am. Average cost: \$6-8. Info: 247-6683.

25 Sunday

Jamaica Plain □ **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors** in conjunction with Chiltern Mountain Club **apple-picking** at Deershorn Apple Farm. Afterwards, picnic at Wachusett Mountain. 11am. Info and ride-sharing: Joe S22-9505.

Cambridge □ **Book-signing party** to celebrate the publication this month of "Looking at Gay and Lesbian Life" by Warren Blumenfeld and Diane Raymond. To benefit the Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 2-5pm. Info: 354-0133.

Brookline □ Brookline, Brighton, Allston **Lesbian Potluck**. 6pm. Info: 782-8157.

Boston □ **Boston's Other Voice** special guest Brian McNaught on "coming out." With host Peter Stickel. WROR 98.5FM. 11:30pm.

26 Monday

Cambridge □ **Lesbian Rap** topic: "PMS-Premenstrual Syndrome." The Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10pm. Free. Info: 354-8807 (TTY/voice).

Boston □ **Boston Bisexual Women's Network** monthly Volunteer Night. Meet new people, stuff newsletters, do BBWN projects, munch out. All women welcome. 7:30pm. Info: 247-6683.

Jamaica Plain □ **Angry Initiatives/Defiant Strategies** presented by GCN and Deep Dish T.V. Network. An hour of clips from AIDS-related videos. J.P. Firehouse, 659 Centre St. 7:30pm. Wheelchair accessible. \$2. Info: 426-4469.

27 Tuesday

Cambridge □ **MCC-Boston discussion**, **Women and the Bible**. See 9/20 listing.

Providence, RI □ **ACT-UP Rhode Island** meeting. See 9/20 listing.

Cambridge □ **Bisexual Women's Rap**. See 9/20 listing.

Boston □ **Gay and Lesbian Speakers Bureau** monthly meeting. Topic: "Dealing with the Silently Hostile in Your Audience: How to Get Them (Safely) to Express Themselves." 2S Ridgeway Lane, Beacon Hill. 7pm. Info: 367-3946.

Boston □ **Big Ed** performs. First of thirteen shows, through 10/10. Club Cabaret, 209 Columbus Ave. 8pm. \$10 Tue., Wed., Thu.; \$12 other nights. Info: 536-0972.

Boston □ **Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Bar Association cocktail party**. New members especially welcome. Claddagh Restaurant, 33S Columbus Ave. 8:30pm. Info: 734-6720.

CALENDAR COMPILED BY TODD HOLLISTER

Tracks in the Snow. Written and Directed by Orlow Seunke. With Gerard Thoelen and Bram van der Vlugt. At the Brattle Theatre, Cambridge, Mass. September 20.

By Liz Galst

The first time I saw *Tracks in the Snow*, about a year and a half ago, I started freaking out about being an incest survivor. How strange, I thought, that a movie about two adult brothers bitching at each other as they schlep their dead father to his desired burial ground in snow-bound northern Scandinavia, could trigger this response in me. Having recently seen the movie a second time, and having thought a lot more about my brother's abuse of me, I can now understand my response a little better. Orlow Seunke's work is a clever and engrossing examination of the hellish relationship between two siblings. The film marks not only one's emotional abuse of the other as they journey north to bury their father, but also both brothers' journey into themselves. And if you think this all sounds very dull, think again.

Simon is a faygela cabaret performer in Amsterdam during the '20s or '30s (the director is intentionally unclear about these plot details). He hangs out with a bunch of old drag queens and young-ish pretty boys and is generally penniless, but seems to have a happy life nevertheless. Hein, on the other hand, is an uptight stockbroker who's got money coming out of his ears. Alas, however, he is a tad bit out of touch with his emotions.

Anyway, 20 years earlier, Hein and Simon's dad retired from the family stock brokerage, left the business to his two sons, remarried, and moved, with his new wife, to the Scandinavian equivalent of Siberia (newlyweds do strange things). Hein let the cat out of the bag about Simon's boyfriends and Simon got disinherited. I like to think that the mensch that he is, Simon would have gone into the theatre anyway, instead of becoming a capitalist pig like his brother — and such a pig he is! But Simon was never given the chance and longs only to be reunited with his beloved father. Towards this end, Simon wrote to his father, explained his love, and asked to be taken back into the family. His father assented (through the

film

details). He hangs out with a bunch of old drag queens and young-ish pretty boys and is generally penniless, but seems to have a happy life nevertheless. Hein, on the other hand, is an uptight stockbroker who's got money coming out of his ears. Alas, however, he is a tad bit out of touch with his emotions.

Anyway, 20 years earlier, Hein and Simon's dad retired from the family stock brokerage, left the business to his two sons, remarried, and moved, with his new wife, to the Scandinavian equivalent of Siberia (newlyweds do strange things). Hein let the cat out of the bag about Simon's boyfriends and Simon got disinherited. I like to think that the mensch that he is, Simon would have gone into the theatre anyway, instead of becoming a capitalist pig like his brother — and such a pig he is! But Simon was never given the chance and longs only to be reunited with his beloved father. Towards this end, Simon wrote to his father, explained his love, and asked to be taken back into the family. His father assented (through the



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Monday, September 26

Jamaica Plain Firehouse
659 Centre St.
Wheelchair Accessible

7:30 PM
Multicultural Arts Center
Jamaica Plain
Info: 426-4469

axe, but perhaps I am projecting here.) When the brothers finally arrive, Hein is the only one to see their father alive. Simon, who has pined for this reunion with his father for 20 years, is out of the room when his father utters his dying words "Is Simon here too?" I'm telling you, it's enough to kill you.

It turns out that the father's one wish was to be buried next to his second wife in a town even farther north (Is that possible? Already they're trudging around a tundra full of crazy soldiers with shaved heads and raiders on cross-country skis) and Simon decides to schlep him there. Never mind that it's 40 below without the wind-chill factor.

Hein, in his only sane moment in the entire film, decides to let his brother, and the affable, drunk guide Aapu get on with things; he is returning to Amsterdam. But just as they are about to depart, Hein realizes that their covered wagon is full of items which will reveal his stingy ruse.

In order not to blow his own cover, Hein decides to go with them. And don't think that Hein is the kind of man who would let the lack of appropriate winter clothing stop him from protecting his wealth. As they attempt to cross the tundra, Simon, Hein, and Aapu end up battling the weather, wolves, and, of course, each other. Time and again, Hein proves himself to be the schmuck that he is, and, thank god, Simon does, finally, go after his brother with that axe.

Simon and Hein travel not only to what seems to be the center of a freezing universe but also to the center of their selves and their relationship. Their journey is so taut with suspense that I won't reveal the outcome here. Let's just say the whole thing is a learning experience for everyone concerned.

All too often, obscure foreign films like this one are labeled "quiet masterpieces"; the phrase, unfortunately, is beginning to wear out. But more than any other film I've seen recently, *Tracks in the Snow* fits this accolade. The acting, with Gerard Thoelen as Simon and Bram van der Vlugt as Hein, is superb. The director, Seunke, employs the play-within-a-movie narrative structure like no one before him. The ending is riveting. And the conflict between the siblings, if a little mythic, is as true to life as any I've experienced. □

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